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New Labour Establishment: Day 2



est essin Truction

Portrait

The smut of **Gary Bushell**

G2 page 7

Anger over schools failure

Shephard 'panic' over tests at 11

ILLIAN Shenight accused of panicking in the face of fresh evidence from the Office for Standards in Education that nearly helf the schools in England are failing their pupils through a mix of inadequate teaching, low exoectations and lack of books

After Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector, identified a "worryingly persistent" slowing of pupils' performance in the middle years at primary school, Mrs Shephard promised to publish national tables of school performance in tests at 11 to give parents more information about how well pri-

mary schools were doing.
"We have to make sure that they are being made fully accountable and that the results are transparent for all to see." the Education and Employment Secretary said.

Two weeks ago results of the first national tests of 11-year-olds showed more than half failed to reach the expected standard in English and maths. At that stage Mrs Shephard said it would be inappropriate to publish school performance tables until the new system of as-sessment "bedded down".

Her change of heart was scorned by David Blunkett, shadow education secretary. This is a woman who is under enormous pressure from all sides. She is prepared to concede anything if the pressure is sufficient."

David Hart, general secre-tary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said it could not remotely be argued. that the tests for 11-year-olds would have bedded down by the summer when the first performance tables will be performance tables will be compiled. "They will not pres-ent a full and fair picture for parents choosing schools." Mr Woodhead's report

based on about 4,000 school inspections - said standards needed to be raised in about

half the primary schools and two-fifths of secondaries. Children tended to do well in their earlier primary years, but their progress



1996 Ofsted lessone for 8 to 11

need to raise reading standard for 11 year olds.

Estimated #8,000 beech

Girle continue to pull effect of boys at GCSE.

due to a fall in the quality of teaching. This persisted in the early years of secondary school when pupils were taught by the least-qualified

teachers, Mr Woodhead criticised whose performance "damages the education of many children" and who should be heiped to leave the profession. Particularly urgent action was required to improve liter-

acy and numeracy.
But in spite of the bleak findings, Mr Woodhead's diagnosis was more balanced than his first report a year ago. He published the names of 203 excellent schools and even had a good word to say even had a good word to say for judicious use of "trendy" teaching techniques as long as they were part of a care fully-tailored package includ-ing the traditional wholeclass approach. Although nearly 40 per cent of schools could make better use of their resources, shortage of books and cramped accommodation

were serious enough to merit closer scrutiny, he said. Mrs Shephard's promise to publish tables of 11-year-olds' performance upset teaching unions. "Parents have a right to information about the quality of education their children receive - snapshot inspections and crude league tables do not provide this," said Doug McAvoy, general secre-tary of the National Union of

"They are an expensive, bureaucratic exercise which mostly confirm the obvious but are of little practical value to parents," said Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of

Two in five schools should

Soldier's hand of soil reason to envy the dead. Since a small piece of shrapnel from a Serb shell plunged into her spine in October 1994, she has been paralysed from the waist down.

Unable to control her bladder, she sat in fetid bedclothes in Saraievo's underfunded all the easy femilierity of the satisfaction and the same femilierity of the same all the easy femilierity of the same all the same all the easy femilierity of the sa Mr Woodhead criticised friendship eases teaching by a minority of teachers friendship eases Bosnian child's painful burden

> Julian Borger in Sarajevo reports on a British sergeant's personal mercy mission

HEN Sergeant-Major
Vic Ferguson strolled
into the hospital
ward, Hurmija Mujic was sitting up in bed looking
straight ahead, her face deadstraight ahead, her face deading Hurmija himself to helping Hurmija live areas seed to ward, Hurmija Mujic was sit-ting up in bed looking straight ahead, her face dead-ened with a numbing combination of grief, loss and

ing Hurmija live again, and is recruiting the help of any Nato soldier who will listen. boredom.

Since that November day, the 12-year-old, half-paralysed drawn-out atrocity at to create the illusion of being leader comment, page 8

Read my lipstick . . . Hillary Clinton in assertive socialising mode at the annual National Governors' Association ball at

hospital for more than a year, missing her father and her two brothers whom she left behind in Srebrenica. They are almost cartainly lying in mass graves, victims of the massacres which followed the Serb conquest of the former

government enclave last July.
"She had a completely life-less expression," recalls Sgt-Major Ferguson, aged 32, whose wife and three chil-dren are at his base in Germany. "Hurmija spoke in monosyllables and never once looked at me when I tried to talk to her. Her sheets stank. That night I cried myself to

aleep."
While most British squaddies in the Nato-led peacekeeping force (I-FOR) spend their off-duty hours in the bar

in the Mujics' tiny flat with all the easy familiarity of father and daughter. When strangers call, she lapses into virtual silence but reaches out to bold the sergeantmajor's hand for reassurance.
He sips thick Bosnian coffee
and teases her mercilessly
through his translator. It is
the only thing that will bring

a smile to her face. Hurmija's mother, Ajkuna, and her two sisters, Mersija and Ramija, have to share their flat with another refugee family. They spend most of their lives in a room aft wide and 15ft long.

Ajkuna would like to be able to find a ground-floor fixt

near the hospital, but she said: "My husband and my sons are still counted as miss turn to page 2, column 3

Cold weather set to last as snow blankets most of Britain

Alex Bollos

EAVY overnight snow-falls across Britain were the first front of a wintry snap forecast to last until the

Blizzards caused havoc in Scotland and Wales yester-day, closing mountain passes

The London Weather Can- | closed. Most motorways in | most of the country, accord-re said the hitterly cold | Strathclyde were down to one | ing to the London Weather tre said the bitterly cold weather was moving slowly eastwards and would cover the country by this morning. A spokesman said everywhere would see at least a few inches of snow, except for

Kent and East Anglia. The Scottish borders was field nuclear complex in Cum-worst hit by yesterday's bria had to spend last night at snowfalls, receiving at least work because they were day, closing mountain passes and making driving treacher one. A postman died in Dyfed when his van crashed into a the A74, the main road from the A74, the M74, the M

Thousands of school-children in Scotland, Wales and the Lake District were sent home because their schools were shut, and hundreds of workers at the Sella-

ing to the London Weather Centre, but strong south-easterly winds will make it feel

The National Grid does not expect to have any problem maintaining supply during the snowy period, a spokesman said. There were fears during the cold spell last mouth that power might be cold of in some resist to cut off in some parts of the Temperatures will be country because of high de-

Child bride in Turkey 'six weeks pregnant'

ARAH COOK the 13-year-old Essex schoolwho through an Islamic marriage ceremony in Turkey, was reported by Turkish television last night to be six

weeks' pregnant. ATV, considered to be the most reliable private televi-sion channel in the region, said Sarah had been exam-ined yesterday at the state hospital in Kahranmanmaras, the town in south-east Turkey where she has lived with her husband's family since the ceremony a month

ago.

She attended the hospital for an examination which supposed to establish whether her physical develop-ment matched the age sug-gested in her British passport Her husband, Musa

Komeagac, aged 18, is being held in jail by the Turkish authorities on charges relating to under age sex.

The television report an nounced that, during the ex-

amination, Sarah was found to be pregnant. A second tele-vision station, Kanal D, has Sarah had been expected to fly back to London yesterday with her mother, Jackie

Cook, who has spent more than a week in Turkey trying to persuade her to return. British embassy officials thought she had succeeded, but Sarah apparently changed her mind once again during

an emotional two-hour visit to Musa in jail yesterday. Reports that she was on her way to Istanbul proved to be premature. Last night Sarah was still in Kahranmanloyalty to her Turkish hus- with Sarah.

band in the face of pressure from the British authorities was made a ward of court in London after an ap-plication by Essex social services, and ordered back to

A spokesman at the British embassy in Ankara said last night that he had no comment to make on the reports of he pregnancy. He confirmed that, earlier, both Sarah and her mother had expressed ; wish to return to Britain.

"We still have our consul and honorary consul in the region," he said. "They are rying to help them leave but it is taking some time." Consular officials are tread

ing carefully because of fears of an angry response by local people, who felt Sarah and Musa should not be forcibly separated. Musa is due to appear in court again on Febru

ary 15.

If Sarah is pregnant, the legal and diplomatic complications of the case will multiply as negotiations begin over here - and with whom the child is to be brought up. Sarah, who is the youngest of four children, met Musa, a waiter at a hotel, when she was on a family holiday in the

Turkish resort of Alanya last June. He proposed to her after SDOFT COURTSD After the family had returned home to Braintree, Sarah pestered her parents to

return to Turkey.

She flew back in October wearing the engagement ring, and married Musa in January in a Muslim ceremony attended by both sets of

parents.
She is so popular in Kahranmanmaras that the mayor, Ali Sezal, crowned her "bride of the city" and her husband "groom of the

nation". Sarah's father Adrian Cook, maras, where local people Sarah's father Adrian Cook, have hailed her a heroine for her conversion to Islam and his wife flew back out to be

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on 0990 224488.





Obituaries 10

Education 10/11

back at

critics

Richard Norton-Taylor

C IR Richard Scott has hit back at Whitehall-in-spired attempts to

undermine his arms-to-Iraq inquiry, describing criticism in advance of the publication of his long-awaited report as

"worthless".

Although he does not mention any names, his comments are directed above all at Lord Howe, the former foreign secretary, who has led the attacks on the way Sir Richard conducted the inquiry's public hearings.

Lord Howe described Sir Richard and Presiley Baxendale the inquiry's counsel. in

dale, the inquiry's counsel, in

a recent article in the Specta-

tor, as "partners in a double-barrelled inquisition". He

said the inquiry should have

been conducted on adver-

sarial lines, with witnesses examined by their own law-

yers and cross-examination.

But the judge says in an interview in a Channel 4

Dispatches programme to be broadcast tomorrow: "This is

an inquisitorial inquiry and I do not see how you can have

an inquisitorial inquiry with-out it being inquisitorial."

The important requirement,

he says, is that the procedure

Sir Richard sent witnesses

questions in advance and gave them the opportunity to

comment on provisional criti-cisms in draft extracts of his

report. Witnesses have also had free access to legal advice — Lord Howe has hired a

large City law firm paid for out of public funds. "I hope that people will

read [the report] and they will

should be fair.

shdow

iste of the

Sketch

In the dark, and possibly mad



Simon Hoggart

O WORK for the first time on a spanking new privatised train. Actually it looked remarkably like an old British Rail train, in same staff and the same surly youths with their boots up on the seats. It was even 12 min-utes late. These days nostalgia is just another source of instant gratification.

Still, I was lucky. On the same line the previous day I would have travelled in with the Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, and Mr Toby Jessel who, failing a rout, will shortly be my MP.

The two men had risen at 4.30am to ride on the first privatised train. "You must be mad," someone shouted at Mr mad, someone since at a least a least leas almost imperceptibly. "The train was clean and punctual, so my constituents can now look forward to an improved service!" (Of course, with VIPs on board, they'd bothered to clean it and make it on time.)

"It was a particular plea-sure to meet my hon friend at 5 station," Sir George replied, straining credulity further than most would dare. "He was able to point out certain interesting features on our

You can't see a lot at 5.15 on a February morning, since it is pitch dark. Perhaps Mr Jes-sell pointed to where local landmarks would be visible two hours later. "That's Odd-bins, Secretary of State, there's Look-In Video Rental, and, ah yes, Mr Frisby the Butcher. His loin chops are rather famous around here!"

"Fascinating, Toby, quite fascinating," Sir George would murmur in his courteous way, wondering vaguely it there was a restaurant car he could escape to. He was answering a question about the

fiddles on the privatised TLS line. Labour MPs seemed outwhy they should be surprised. A certain gamy whiff of sleaze is helpful for getting preferent from this government Perhaps it was in their bid conched in modern corporate jargon: "We propose to construct an aggressive ongoing reciprocal program of cre-ative unilateral revenue en-

Nigel Spearing said he had asked the new company to stop trains at West Ham, on the laughable grounds that passengers could change to two Tube lines and another railway. "They refused, claiming they would lose rev nue from there to Fenchurch

street," he said. Not stopping trains because passengers would only get off! Perhaps the company run-ning the East Coast line will enhance their revenue by cut-ting out York so that everyone has to go to Edinburgh. National Heritage Ques-

tions were largely devoted to Mrs Bottomley telling us in her fluting voice what a huge success the lottery had been She was constantly interrupted by Labour scruffs. Speak from the heart.

Ginny!" they bawled, or "Where's her off-button, eh? as she piped onward. "Yes," she would say, often, "the opposite side say one thing and they all joined in: and do another!

Years ago upper class ladies ventured into the slums to warn the poor about the evils of gambling. Nowadays Mrs Bottomley tells them of the in numerable benefits of eambling, but the jeering from the urchins and guttersnipes is just as loud. She bore up well, except when she raved about "urban forests" (what?) and once when she completely for got to answer a question. Later, Edwina Currie received the first anti-plug for her new novel. Tony Banks

complained on a point of orde that the book implied MPs spent their time "drinking themselves to oblivion and bonking their eyeballs out. Unfortunately this is not the case. Betty slapped him firmly

down. "There is an answer to that. Don't buy it, and don't read it." There's a quote which would look well on the cover

Publishers fight curb on 'explicit Scott hits sex' in teenagers' magazines

Sally Weale

crative girls' m zine market are resisting attempts to clamp down on explicit sex in publications read by young

A Bill is to be introduced in the House of Commons today in response to claims of growing concern among parents that magazines read by chil-dren as young as 10 and 11 contain too much sex.

The furore was atriggered last November by the prob-lem page of the magazine TV Hits which explained to readers — some as young as 11, though the average age is 14 how to perform oral sex.
 The Periodical (Protection of Children) Bill, sponsore

y Tory MP Peter Luff (Worcester) under the 10-min ute rule procedure, would require publishers to print the recommended minimum readership age on the magazines' cover or face a fine. Last night publishers dis-missed the measure as unnecessary and warned that a minimum age on a magazine would tend to attract those

Association (PPA) said teen age magazines were aware o their responsibilities and warned of practical difficul-ties in implementing the measure. PPA chief executive lar Locks said: "If implemented it would have to cover news papers, which are read by children and frequently contain magazines for children, and presumably books as

"By and large these maga-zines are getting it absolutely right. There are instances that cause comment and concarn — maybe we could find better ways of ensuring we reach the right target mar-kets. But putting age limits on them is not the best way of doing it. Doing what Mr Luff ts could exacerbate the

Mr Locks said there were already disincentives for magazines overstepping the ielist a title as unsuitable that is a very powerful sanc-tion. In the end it has to be up o parents to ensure that what their children read is suitable for their age group and that individual child."

A glance at several teenage magazines on sale this mouth reveals a substantial helping of sex. Morel, aimed at older readers but inevitably read by younger girls too, offers a "Valentine's special steamy

sex test".
Sugar, billing itself Britain's number one girls' mag, includes a 16-page booklet entitled: "Stop! Do you really know enough about sex?".
Among the items is "condom conundrum". "I had an abortion" and "the no-sex guide to fun".

which psychologist Susan in detail. I've been impressed by the number of letters and telephone calls we've had a nockle no-no".

Peter Luff, who has two children, one of whom is a 10-year-old girl, said the aim of his bill, which has cross-party support, was to draw atten
"To not saying my bill is a perfect solution. It's just a support, was to draw atten
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"To not saying my bill is a perfect solution. It's just a support, was to draw attenguide to fun". Mizz, includes a double page spread of a male model

Clare Rayner, who prompt

We had exactly the same shrieks over the teenage and early 70s. There's nothing new under the sun. What it boils down to is that children want information. They are sizzling with sex

mons when, as an agony auni in the 1960s, she answered a

reader who inquired: "What is

and curiosity.
All the evidence is that the more information they get, the less sexually active they become. To keep parents happy I would quite like to see some sort of clas-sification, rather like the parents can see this is not a magazine for 11-year-olds but aimed at 16-year-olds. But not censorship.

I would rather my own children got information from a magazine rather than from behind the bike

steps to sexual heaven," in

Maura Townsend, aged 42, of Withington, Manchester, whose 14-year-old daughte Shelly is a keen reade

I think these magazines are far too sexually explicit. But I would rather she reads them. At least she di cusses things with me. Things like "seven steamy sex tips" and "is your boy-friend a good lover" — I think it's just encouraging

inder-age sex. I would not try to stop her because I think if that's what she wants to read. that's fine. At my convent boarding school I can remember being caught reading Fanny Hill: Memoirs of a Woman of Plea-sure. [John Cleland's 18thcentury pornographic novell. I nearly got expelled

I don't think this Bill is going to work. It's about as likely as stopping underage kids from buying ciga rettes. I'm just lucky I've got a daughter who is very

Shelly Townsend, aged 14

I used to read Just Seven teen all the time. I've been reading it since I was 11. When I look back, I think for 11-year-olds there's a bit too much about sex and stuff. I'm more into music magazines now, though sometimes I get things like Mizz and Sugar. I think they're OK, but

there are stories on every page about sex and the problems people have. I think they should cut down a bit. We want to read different things as well — interviews with pop stars and things like that.

The problem pages say things like: "I'm 14 and I've done this and that." It makes people think: "Well, I'm 14 and I haven't done that yet." That's what I used

My mum's really open about things like that, we can talk about it, but I know that some of my friends' parents are a bit hush-hush.

on a bed of red satin, the sheet | tion to an issue of growing | extra bit of guidance. And it's | have slightly mishandied the

pulled discreetly over his concern to parents.

not just the sexually explicit question about oral sex, but groin in 19, there are "Seven "I was horrified when I stuff. These magazines are generally publishers of teen-

Kate Freeman, 12, of Woking,

I read Sugar, It's Bliss and Smash Hits. I don't think they should be banned or anything. I think they're really good. There's advice and stuff which is interesting, and it's not all about

I do think the sex should be there. We need to know about that kind of stuff. I can talk to my mum but some people can't. At school
we talk about periods and
things, but nothing else.
I think the magazines are
quite responsible. Most of it

is just saying that you should never let someone do anything you don't want to. You should only do it if you're really happy. They go on about the age limit the whole time. I don't think it

me at the moment — I haven't got boyfriends yet. But it will be relevant one day. I need to know now so I can think shead.

deeply sexist. They're all age magazines were ex-

encourages anyone. It isn't really relevant to

not form their opinion of it simply from a view being thrust upon them by sources

who have not read it." Sir Richard says. "Criticism in advance of reading it has got to be worthless, and I hope the public will realise that." The judge is concerned that his report will be used as a political football, diverting attention away from the unprecedented insight it gives into the workings of British government. He says he regrets that the initial reception of the report will be

coloured by party politics. He says he hopes his report will be considered seriously. without preconception, and that his recommendations will be accepted by the

He adds: "The people who have uttered these criticisms not on my Christmas card list anyway and they are not about to go on it."

An inquiry conducted along the lines proposed by Lord Howe was proposed by Labour and the Liberal Democrats but rejected by the Gov-ernment on the grounds that it would take too long. Lord Donaldson, former Master of the Rolls, has said that if witnesses' lawyers had the opportunity to cross examine, "it wouldn't be an inquiry, it

First night Cruelly, madly,

deeply disturbing

The Wasp Factory
Barrow-in-Fumess/touring NE WAY to adapt a novel for the stage, as Ken Campbell once said, is to get your secretary to type out all the bits in quotation marks. The other way is to deconstruct the ideas in the

Robin Thomber

book and reinterpret them. That's what director Richard Gregory has done with Iain Banks's first, cult novel, a tongue-in-cheek exercise in the comedy of cruelty which examines just how nasty you can get and still come out smiling.

Banks's book is apparently about a disturbed 16-year-old a solitary, obsessive fetishist with a macabre, sadistic sense of humour, the sort of person who takes butterflies apart to see how they work and kills children for fun by flying them on a kite.

He'd probably now be diag-nosed as autistic or psychotic — but it's Frank's brother, Eric, who's a certified nutter and his loopy, hippy father who seems relatively sane. It's a Catcher in The Rye for the

Gregory's 75-minute straight-through production, for a Northern Stage tour of the north, was defiantly pre-Forum 28 in Barrow-in-Furmore predictable amateur

cular sandpit suggesting the book's rolling dunes, and a vertical ladder suggesting all sorts of weird theosophies. Richard Clewes, as the father is shaven-headed and sinisterly robed like a medieval cleric. Jane Arnfield splits Frank's personality with Matthew Dunster, who also plays Eric, in black casuals. It's not a conventional, naturalistic replay of the book. Gregory uses the text like musical themes and his performers like instruments. He uses

puppets and music, movemen and light. and light.

The dance sequences, with the tortured, jerky, self-mutilating movements of the deeply troubled, spill into the gestures and body language of the spoken text; the arrogant anguish of the ladder work will into the ladder work. spills into the breathtaking .

gymnastics of the circus. You're left with a sense of olienation and dissociation so complete that it literally takes your breath away — here is Philip Larkin's "They fuck you up, your mum and dad" made flesh. You're not even sure, because of the cast-ing, whether Frank and Eric are two people or one. What is certain is that

casual killing, on a caprice, is not just revenge for parental valid response to being born into an absurd world, a frivolous fault in a venal universe The Wasp Factory rattles your foundations as it challenges your preconceptions of an eve-

Soldier eases lgirl's pain

continued from page 1 ing, so I don't get the benefits that come to the widow of a Sehid [martyr]."

Schid [martyr]."
The sergeant-major's determination to improve Hurmija's life and his flair for organisation have generated a fundraising effort which has drawn in soldiers from across the Nato-led force.
"Everyday, I have letters

and people who've heard about Hurmija, coming up to me — offering help or just handing over money," he

He has set up an account for the young girl, and has begun to organise an appeal. A British soldier is offering to run a fundraising marathon, a French major has written two emotional poems about her, and an anonymous American officer sent cash in an envelope. Sgt-Major Ferguson's daughter, Charlotte, has to the Stoke Mandeville hos-



organised a "sponsored pital in Britain, where she silence" in her school. could be trained to move "We're not under the illu- around with mechanical aids. sion that she's ever going to walk again," said Petty Offi-cer Phil Ball, a British Navy

'Buddha's birthplace' unearthed in Nepal



Brave words

Extract from a letter from Hurmija to Sgt-Major Ferguson's 11-year-old daughter, Charlotte:

"We were sitting and play-ing under an apple tree. Suddenly one shell landed on the tree. At first, I felt like I was flying. I tried to stand but I just couldn't.

"The days at the hospital "The days at the hospital are difficult. My mother and sisters come every day. And your father too. His visits are very important. He's so nice and generous, and I love him very much. You are very lucky to have Vic as a father.

"I had a wonderful father too, but I don't know if I'm ever going to see him again. I always hope. I hope that I will walk again one day. I hope that I'll have my family in one place, and I also

fly in one place, and I also hope you'll answer my let-

To get her into the hospital will take a £50,000 deposit. A rehabilitation course will probably cost nearer £150,000. So far, Sgt-Major Ferguson has collected £6,000, but he bas made Hurmija a promise

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the Lords, or

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No ordinary 4 Countries, #4

support BBC battle over sport WO out of three MPs back regulations to prevent Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB

from gaining exclusive access to flagship sporting events, a survey revealed yesterday. The survey, commissioned by the BBC from MORI, was released on the eve of today's House of Lords vote on amendments tabled by a cross-party alliance of peers which would guarantee the BBC and ITV access to Britain's sporting "crown jewels".

The Government, which casting Bill.

favours allowing sporting bodies to determine the mar-ket rate for their events, faces defeat over the issue.

Survey shows two in three MPs

The poll shows 69 per cent of MPs support regulation of major sports events with 23 per cent opposed. Conserva-tive MPs back regulation by 48 per cent to 37 per cent. Senior Tories including Kenneth Baker, the former home secretary, Robert Atkins, the former sports minis-ter, David Mellor, the former heritage secretary, and Sebas-tian Coe, the athlete and MP for Falmouth, have expressed their concern at the Broad-

BUDDHISM'S equivalent of of Emperor Ashoka, who the stable in Bethlehem has been discovered in Nepal. The archaeologists an international team of ar-chaeologists announced yes-terday. They said a stone on a platform of bricks buried 16ft under a temple marked where Prince Siddhartha Gautama, bounder of the religion, was buddhist literature says bini Development Trust, said that the Buddha's mother, a detailed report would eventuelly be made public. founder of the religion, was born 2,600 years ago.

Mayadevi temple in Lumbini, 200 miles south-west of Kathmandu, and date from the era nent. The archaeologists — from Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Japan — made the discovery nine months ago, but the government de-layed an announcement until it had consulted experts.

she passed Lumbini. She went into labour, bathed in a sacred pond and gave birth.
According to this account,
Emperor Ashoka placed a
stone on bricks at the birthplace, plus a pillar which still stands. Babu Krishna Rijal, an archaeologist with Lum-

her womb. While travelling

by-time ◆ Complete with utiva-sim battery and built-in charger ◆

Cellphones

Scott hits back at critics

China fuels war of

N ITS fiercest display ye

troop movements in Fujian province facing Taiwan in preparation for exercises. An unconfirmed report in

China's manoeuvres, expected to start this week, pro-

tory because it is the first time the country holds democratic presidential elections," President Lee said yesterday in Taipei. "The Chinese communists are scared to death of this historic event."

Beijing sees the poll as a ploy to perpetuate Taiwan's status as a separate political entity and has denounced President Lee as bent on push-ing it towards independence.

the attack was triggered by the leading role the Gazette has played in highlighting racist attacks in the town. After speaking out at the time of the alleged knife attack on their local MP memchances of victory, or force

Silence has not brought respite however. Only a week after Mr Ashdown's late night tour a mob gathered in "ta-keaway alley" shouting abuse and threatening staff in a tannal power-struggles could override military logic.

there because of the troubles. "Look around the restaurant, by what's happened."

rested, but staff are convinced

in an escalating battle of nerves with Taiwan, China In nerves with Taiwan, China has reportedly massed up to 400,000 troops in a coastal area newly designated a "war zone" prior to a massive, month-long military exercise.

As fear of the People's Liberation Army again joited Taiwan's stock exchange, its president. Lee Teng-hui ves-

units, submarines and mis sile-bearing boats.
It quoted an unnamed Chinese official saying any inter-

ference by Taiwanese ships or planes would make a clash "difficult to avoid".

Gazette newspaper last Octo-ber which caused £100,000 damage. No one has been ar-Beijing hopes military threats will hurt Mr Lee's

bers of the ethnic population are now reluctant to talk for fear of provoking further

doori restaurant. Staff at the restaurant said unease in the United States people were too scared to eat The Washington Post reported Staff at the restaurant said

nerves

Andrew Higgins In Hong Kong

Taiwan's stock exchange, its president, Lee Teng-hu, yesterday sald Beijing's war games showed the Communist Party is 'scared to death' of the island's burgeoning democracy.

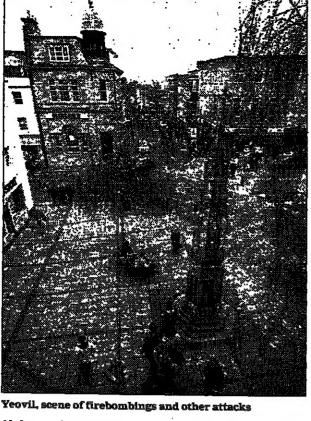
Military sources confirmed

Hong Kong's Sing Tao Daily said China would deploy 300 warplanes, 20 elite infantry

vide a menacing counterpoint to campaigning in Taiwan for elections at the end of March. "March 23, 1996, is an important day in Chinese his-

him to abandon efforts to in-crease Taiwan's profile. But a new study of the PLA by the Stockholm Interna-tional Peace Institute doubts whether China has the capability to launch an effective assault. However, political uncertainty has sparked fears

The tension is causing deep yesterday that US officials had decided to formally warn sion could lead to miscalcula-tion and accident".



'Utterly disgraceful' report of alleged claims by former massage parlour owner follows Liberal Democrat leader's stand against racial attacks in Somerset seat



Ashdown sues paper over 'sex smear' story

Geoffrey Gibbs

HE Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ash-down yesterday down yesterday launched a libel action against a Bristol-based daily newspaper for publishing what he called "an utterly disgraceful" article referring to a smear campaign about

Under the banner headline "Sex Smear on Paddy", the Western Daily Press repeated allegations said to have been made against the MP by Peter Stoodley, former owner of a Yeovil massage parlour closed down by the Liberal Democrat controlled district council two years ago.

The massage parlour — a brothel in all but name — was the cause of acute embarrassment for Yeovil's Lib Dems in November 1994 when it emerged that Nikki Vickers, the daughter of a former libsat on the planning comittee been bracing themselves for day. "That is what the town that forced the establish the possibility that the has suffered from for so long. after taking a leading role in "boomtown rats" on the ram. Police are currently investi-

and released on police bail in connection with last week's firebomb attack on Mr Ashdown's car, is understood to have tried to pass the story to a number of national newspapers before its publication in Bristol yesterday. The 53-year-old grand-

father, jailed for six months for living on immoral earn-ings of women at the City Girl establishment, was not available for comment at the flat he owns close to the Liberal Democrat constituency offices in the town centre. Mr Ashdown, who has rep-

resented Yeovil for 13 years, has been the target of threat-ening phone calls since taking a high profile stand

ings involving a man charged with affray and possession of an offensive weapon.

The 51-year-old man is alleged to have threatened Mr Ashdown with a knife during a street incident last November when the former marine commando was on a late night fact-finding tour of the town to see for himself the problems faced by Yeovil's

tiny ethnic population.

Mr Ashdown refused to comment on the smears yesterday but made it clear that he would not let them deter him from stamping out "the scourge of terrorisation and intimidation" in the town. If required to do so he would be in court as a witness for the

against racist attacks in the Somerset town. He said he had been aware of the allegations for some time.

Liberal democrats have bending hearing.

"I am not prepared to be dissuaded from taking action." he said at the party's constituency offices yester.

The MP has fallen foul of

that those who commit crimes in this town are

brought to book." A spokesman for Mr Ashdown's lawyers, who served the writ on Bristol United Press, publishers of the West ern Daily Press, said: "They have plunged like some ele-phant into a trap of their own making. I can't believe it."

Western Daily Press editor Ian Beales was said by the paper's newsdesk to be unavailable for comment. The sex smear allegations against Mr Ashdown and the recent arson attack that de-stroyed the MP's car close to his home in the village of Norton-Sub-Hamdon are the cul-

ment's closure, had worked there as a prostitute.

And I will follow through, in the face of whatever deterrent among local people.

And I will follow through, in the face of whatever deterrent among local people.

And I will follow through, in the face of whatever deterrent among local people.

And I will follow through, in the face of whatever deterrent among local people.

Rumours persist that some of the trouble may be linked on the offices of the Western sary in order to make sure in some of the trouble may be linked on the offices of the Western sary in order to make sure was of the fire bombing of a the police have.

And I will follow through, in the face of whatever deterrent among local people.

Rumours persist that some of the trouble may be linked on the offices of the Western sary in order to make sure was of the fire bombing of a the police have.

Kebab house run by an ethnic Turkish family. Other restaurants in the same part of town have also suffered attacks and restaurant owners and staff complain of frequent incidents of verbal and physical abuse. The population of Banglade-shi, Turkish, Thai and Iranian restaurant owners and staff make up 0.5 per cent of the town's 38,000 population. They have found themselves

isolated and vulnerable. Contrary to tabloid myth, however, Yeovil is no Wild West town. Despite the high profile coverage given to the firebomb attack on Mr Ashdown's car and to the earlier street incident in which the MP was allegedly threatened with a knife, law and order has not experienced a general breakdown. Newspaper talk

idents say the police have been frustrated in trying to get convictions because potential witnesses often fear retaliation.

Questions about who is ulti-mately behind the firebombs and other attacks that have blackened the town's reputation elicits the same names. "There is a hard core gang of two or three families

men in their 20s, 30s and 40s — who are behind these sort of attacks," said one observer of the town's troubles who asked not to be named. "They have henchmen who carry them out for them and any body who stands up against them is threatened and target ed. It's not just racism."
Councillors and social

workers in the town are among those understood to have faced threats after cross-

Taste of the future put to the test

Gary Younge seeks expert opinion on genetically altered tomato puree

TTH an open mind and a refined palate Mariano Casotti brought the spoonful of gen-etically modified Californian tomato puree to his mouth

and tasted the future.
"Not much difference," he said of the puree, on sale for the first time in Sainsbury and Safeway stores yesterday. He smacked his lips, washed his spoon and went back to his traditionally grown Italian puree for further comparison. What Mr Casotti does not

know about pasta and sauces is probably not worth know-ing. For the past 35 years the assistant executive chef to Spaghetti House has been up and making the company's pasta by the tubful while the rest of the country has scarcely thought of breakfast. But taste, he says, isn't everything. "The colour is very rich and dark which could deaden the colour of meat in a bolognese sauce.
And the texture is slightly rougher ... more starchy." he said, absent-mindedly patting both dishes of red goo smooth with the bottom of his spoon.

He conferred in Italian with Riccardo Lavarini to ensure the two connoisseurs spoke with one, satiated, tongue. Without comparing actual dishes it is a little difficult to say but usually we use puree just for colouring the sauces, said Mr Lavarini, the director

A CONTRACT OF THE PARTY.

to matters.

are getting freshly prepared ing to genetically modified the eating.



Mariano Casotti with the new Duree PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

longer-lasting, firmer-tex-

tomatoes are harvested; more

The Sainsbury's version of their advisory committee of the special part of the proof o "I must say I'm a little uncomfortable with the name. of their advisory committee on genetic modification. "We of the puree, genetically modcomfortable with the real the ethical issues relationally modified or not, will always be in ling farmers to isolate af-



food. This sounds a little too scientific."

It took 21 years of research to produce the 29p can of puree in question. The big breakthrough came in 1986 when they isolated the enzyme which accelerates the rotting process in tomatoes, allowing growers to produce to products on a case by case basis. With tomatoes there is said a Sainsbury's spokesman last night, insisting that demand will determine how long it remains on the selves. For the sceptics there is freefore number for further explanation. allowing growers to produce further explanation.

tomatoes are harmonial.

For those who just want something cheap and tasty to

arrive at shops intact and once there they do not deteriorate as quickly.

The Sainsbury's version have to be labelled. And they

Gene genius

BEYOND the genetically modified tomato lie huge possibilities, writes Tim Radford. Some are ready for testing, some are twinkles in the geneticists' eyes. They include:

☐ The hairy killer potato with "a high density of glandular trichomes" transferred from a wild potato. Any Colorado beetle that eats the leaves will suffer serious constipation, crushing its ovaries. Any smaller creature will get

tential lifesaver in a field near Edinburgh. In each litre of her milk are 35 grams of human alpha-1antitrypsin, a protein vital in the treatment of emphysema or cystic fibrosis.

☐ Michigan State University scientists have taken a gene from a bacterium that makes tiny amounts of blo-degradable thermoplastic and slipped it into sugar beet hoping to turn 10 per cent of the harvest into industrial-grade polymer.

☐ Astrid the pig at Cambridge has a gene for pro-ducing human complement, which recognises foreign opens the way to supplying heart transplants for humans from pigs.

□ Genes that make a jellyfish gleam have been transferred to a tobacco plant, which glows when it is attacked by fungus - allowfected plants for treatment.

... in strictly diagnostic towns. K D a good partitioned view wholed by the Mercales and futering attaches orders & toug. It has been exceptioned that the philalant agent of Zygonycois, to sine at to work common name, otherway torkizas.

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BOWEL INFECTION? WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTHCAR
WE TALK SENSE.

The Lords, even divested of hereditary voters, would remain an abuse of democracy, the country's biggest quango. And no ordinary quango, but a dolled-up doppelganger for the Commons, stuffed with placelords and placeladies whose political allegiances neatly matched those of their creators.

G2 cover story

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Lilley put in dock over refugees

day cleared the way for a legal challenge to the Government's decision to withdraw welfare benefits from up to 30,000

asylum seekers a year. A full judicial review hear ing to be held on Wednesday could lead to a high court injunction against Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary. The case will be heard alongside challenges brought

by both Westminster, and Hammersmith and Fulham councils, also claiming Mr Lilley has acted illegally. The benefit cuts came into effect from midnight yesterday.

The action brought yester

day by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants claims the £200 million a year benefit cuts were ultra vires and improper because they would effectively curtail asylum seekers' ability to pursue claims to be refuge

Mr Justice Brooke agreed the council had "an arguable case" that asylum seekers were entitled to be treated as genuine refugees until their claims were determined, and were therefore entitled to claim benefits unless and until their claims were

proved bogus.

Mr Lilley's counsel in court, Steven Kovats, fiercely resisted the suggestion that the benefit cuts were in any way illegal — but he did con-cede there would be "individual cases of hardship".

He also said it was a matter

ings and the large number of unsuccessful appeals against hose individual cases. The Government also de nied that the United Nations conventions on Refugees and the Rights of the Child were

But Nicholas Blake, QC, for the council, said there were 267 cases last year of people who were recognised as refusees only when their appeals were heard. They would be among those no longer eligible to claim housing benefit, income support or other wel-

fare benefits. He said the measures could lead to destitute immigrant families being driven on to forced" to return to countries where they feared persecution. The regulations were an unlawful means to dissuade asylum seekers from pursu-

ing appeals.

Last night council spokes-man Claude Moraes said he was delighted at the decision. He said the action aimed to ensure that asylum seekers had the health and suste-nance to make their claims and pursue their appeals. Both Labour and Liberal

Democrats demanded that the Government think again and withdraw the regulations. social services spokesman, who said the judge had clearly shared his misgivings about the impact of the changes, claimed the decision

was a major setback for Mr Lilley. The Liberal Democrats said they hoped the full judicial review succeeded.



Firefighters gather outside the Department of the Environment offices in London yesterday to protest about threatened cuts in the fire service

TREFIGHTERS protesting of jobs will be lost and four it has to make savings by lost about job cuts in London of a funding controversy.

Lombard, the first British ral tributes at the supering jobs, closing stations and demonstrated outside the December of a funding controversy.

London's first British ral tributes at the supering the first British ral tributes at the supering of seman.

Seaman, who escaped withdrawing a number of approximately stationary and the first British ral tributes at the supering the first British ral tributes a

London's fire authority vesterday, urites Alex Bellos. claims its budget has been cut by millions of pounds. It says

pliances.

Meanwhile in Bristol, col-

nte. Members of her blue watch from Speedwell fire station, north Bristol, laid flo-

main entrance of the Co-op store in Staple Hill, where Ms

with slight injuries. was

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Hit squad shot soccer player during match

squad who ausument the wrong man during a football match were yesterday sent to jail for a total of 65 years. The sentences, believed to be the longest ever imposed in Scotland for a crime other than murder, followed an attempt to silence a witness.

Glasgow High Court heard that only luck and a faulty pistol had prevented whole sale slaughter during the

match between Hillhouse Amateurs and Barrhead Moor at Uplawmoor, near Glasgow, on October 14 last year.
Robert Taylor, aged 28, Andrew Eiliott, aged 31, both of Glasgow, and 37-year-old Easdale Campbell, from Hamilton, were told by Lord Johnston that there were no grounds for exercising mercy in a case in which a Hillhouse in a case in which a Hillhouse

fullback, waiting for a corner, received two bullets instead.

The court was told that the gunman's target should have been the Hillhouse treasurer, John Martin. A former friend of Campbell, he had been due to be a witness at a trial in which Campbell's son and an-



Charles Ballantyne, defender shot in error

other youth were charged with stabbing his nephew. The would-be killers, how-ever, mistook left back Charles Ballantyne for Mr Martin. As the 32-year-old British Telecom worker from Motherwell prepared for the corner with Hillhouse com-fortably ahead 4-0, he spotted Taylor pointing a gun at his football field, and the head and then heard his six-shot the wrong man."

year-old son shout: "My daddy's been shot."

The first bullet lodged just

above Mr Ballantyne's left ear. As he tried to crawl away Taylor fired again, but this time the bullet glanced off his back. The crowd pursued Taylor who shot and missed

Before Elliott held back the shocked spectators with what he claimed was a shotgun wrapped in a roll of paper. Taylor tried three times to fire his pistol, but the firing

Campbell, who had been the two men off in his car. They were cornered by police after a somph chase.

Taylor, who pleaded guilty baif way through the trial.

Wellots

Hers offered on Shland: fundi

was sentenced to 25 years, five of which were for firing on the crowd. His companions were each sentenced to 20

Afterwards, a Strathclyde policeman said the men had broken every rule in the mafia hitman's manual: "Campbell used his own car, they tried to carry out an execution not only in front of wit-nesses but in the middle of a football field, and then they

Old Etonian in gem fraud freed after paying £227,000

Barble Dutter

DARIUS Guppy, the Old Etonian convicted of a £1.8 million insurance swindle, was released from

insurance released from a flar missed abnormalization of compensa//d's of London.

aged 30. had

ree years of a five teme for staging a sms robbery in New 1990, then frauduclaiming insurance
//disconsidered from the properties of bloom in December after missed abnormalize ses. He was sent back soon in December after og to obey an order to pensate the insurers.
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In April 1994, Guppy lost an appeal against the length of his jail term, but

Smear re-tests 'not alarming'

Chris Mihill Medical Correspondent

HOUSANDS of women are to have their cervi-cal smears re-examined

procedures sent some 11,000 slides to two labs in Manchester and Birmingham for double-checking. The results suggested there were question marks over 89 of them. Michael Milligan, clinical director of obstetrics and gynaecology for Kent and Canter-bury NHS Trust, said: "It is

detect something which should be investigated — it does not diagnose cancer." The NHS Cervical Screen-

The NHS Cervical Screening Programme, the national screening body, pointed out that all health authorities and laboratories were now enrolled in quality assurance programmes using external examiners to judge standards, and work was continuing to ensure all screeners reached consistent standards.

National co-ordinator Jullietta Patnick said deaths from cervical cancer had fallen from 1,485 in 1993 to 1,396 in 1994 largely due to the programme's effectiveness.

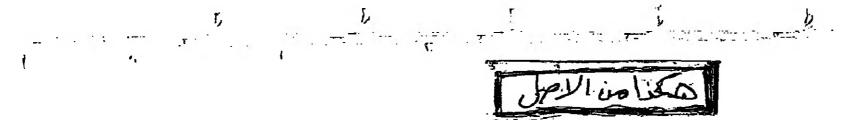
She added: "No screening programme is 100 per cent accurate but the NHSCSP is working to improve the accuracy of interpretation of smears by laboratories and to increase the consistency with which abnormalities are classified as minor or severe."

Cervical screeners expending the standard of the stream of

Kate Neales, consultant gynaecologist at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, said: "Women should not be unduly alarmed, but should be encouraged that we are taking these steps to improve our services for the future."

The hospital yesterday opened a telephone helpline

opened a telephone helpline for worried patients: 01227 important to remember that cervical screening is used to 7666016.



Labour presses for franchise re-run after allegations of ticket fraud on Southend line

Inquiry risk to rail licence

Rebecca Smithers nd Keith Harper

HE GOVERNMENT conceded yesterday that the inquiry into an alleged ticket fraud on the Tilbury and Southend rail line might force it to withdraw the licence from the present holders. Enterprise Rail, and hold a second round of bidding for the franchise. Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, told the

Labour pressed for a com-mitment that the franchising would be rerun, and called on the financial backers of Enterprise Rail, a manage-ment buy-out team, to clarify whether they plan to with-draw their support for the

Just hours after heralding the transfer of the two other passenger businesses — South West Trains and Great Transport Secretary, told the Commons that any decision about withdrawing the licence would have to be mons to answer an emer-

taken by the government appointed franchising director.

Roger Salmon.

| Gency question from Sir pending on the outcome of the investigations by British Rail end constituency is on the and the Government's own line in question.

The allegations relate to the re-issuing of tickets at a station used both by mainline and Tube trains, which has deprived London Underground of up to £45,000 over the last six weeks.

Clare Short, the shadow transport secretary, urged Sir George to "give us an undertaking that the offer to allow

this management team to run this service will be withdrawn ... if the allegations are true". Sir George said that, deregulators, the final decision was down to Mr Salmon.

Despite Mr Salmon's assurances yesterday that he ex-pected the privatisation to be back on track within a month, he promised that there was no question of the investigation being rushed.

Brian Wilson, separately stepped up pressure over the ed fraud by demanding that the private company's financial backers, 3i and Gresham Trust, should state their position

Labour's rail spokesman,

reputable investors want anything to do with the alleged malpractices which go hand in hand with the fragmenta tion and privatisation of the

railways".

Sir George also confirmed that, following the resigna-tion last week of Colin Andrews, commercial director of LTS Rail, another senior staff member had been suspended. This was later established to be Ian Burton, retail manager with Mr Andrews

"The question is whether | also carried out duties involve

ing passenger safety.
A second investigation has been launched into LTS. Its managers are said to have quietly withdrawn the company's penalty fares scheme because they felt that not enough passengers without tickets were being caught to justify costs.

Warning posters at stations have remained in place and the rail regulator, John Swift, is concerned that passengers could be misled into thinking that the penalty fares scheme Chris Kinchen-Smith, is still in operation. He is ex-LTS's managing director, ex-plained that Mr Burton had ate withdrawal of the posters. is still in operation. He is ex-pected to demand the immediNews in brief

Jail threat for Tory ex-leader

THE former deputy Tory leader of Lambeth Council, south London, faces a jail sentence after pleading guilty yesterday to procuring a mortgage by deception and five counts of dishonestly obtaining housing benefit in 1994 to pay his mortgage.

Peter John Evans. 35, who resigned on Sunday, was remanded on bail at Snaresbrook crown court for pre-sentence and psychiatric reports. Judge Andrew Brooks said: "I don't want you to leave the dock thinking you are going to get away with this. I am thinking of passing a custodial sentence.".

Blizzard halts murder dig

A BLIZZARD yesterday brought a halt to an attempt to solve the suspected murder of Danny Dyke, aged 31, an osteopath who operated as a drug dealer. South Wales police had started digging near a village of Garnswilt in West Glamorgan but had to abandon the search when the snow became too heavy.

Mr Dyke, a former physiotherapist with the Welsh rugby club,

Aberavon, and said to have been a supplier of cocaine and cannabis, went missing from his home in Eastbource, East Sussex in April 1994. He was last seen in Swansea and his car was found in a car park in Brecon, Powys. — Duncan Campbell

Footballer's fatal kick

A WOLVERHAMPTON Wanderers footballer, James Kelly, killed a man by kicking his head like a football in an early morning brawl outside a hotel, Liverpool crown court heard

Peter Dunphy, 26, collapsed and lay still and died almost instantly from the blow to the base of the skull and upper neck, said prosecuting counsel David Steer, QC. Kelly, of Willenhall, west Midlands, has admitted manslaughter. His brother, John Kelly, 23, of Everton, and Kevin Atkinson, 22, of Tuebrook, both Liverpool, have admitted assault. The case continues today.

Remand decision defended

SOCIAL service staff yesterday defended a decision to house a youth on remand in a flat attached to an old people's home, because of a national shortage of secure accommodation.

The 14-year-old boy, remanded into the care of Calderdale council, West Yorkshire, by a juvenile court, was placed in the flat

under one-to-one supervision when all other options failed. The council emphasised yesterday that the rooms in Halifax had a separate entrance to the adjacent Claremont House elderly people's home. A spokeswoman said: "We are making every effort to find suitable accommodation to meet his individual needs, but there is a national shortage of this and similar demands are being made by other authorities." — Martin Wainwright

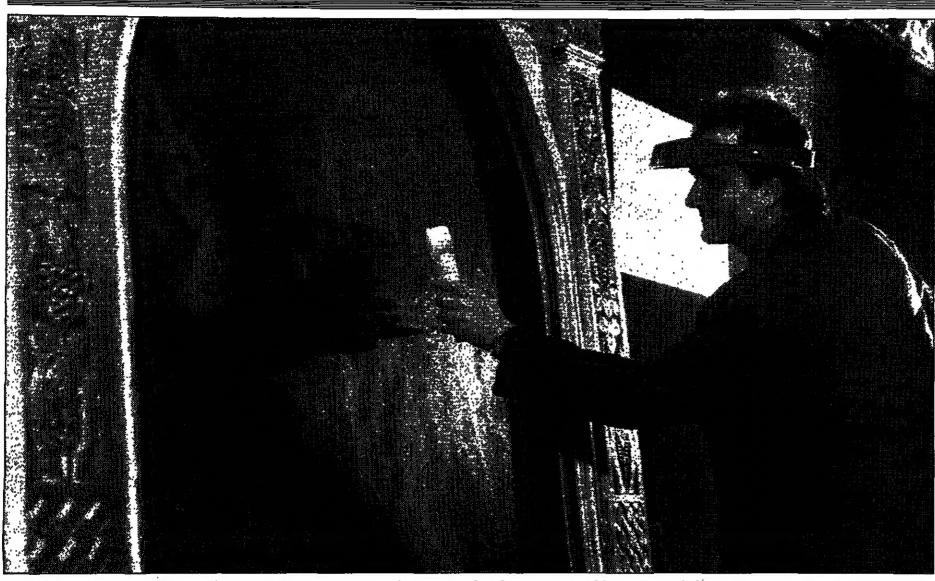
Lottery plea to rural districts

RURAL areas which were significantly under-represented in millennium lottery grants were urged yesterday by Jennifer Page, the chief executive of the Millennium Commission, to get in more applications. The second round of applications closes next week, and the third and probably final round in July. By the end of the year the commission expects to have allocated all its £1.2 billion fund for capital grants.

"We have racked our brains on why the rural applicants are not coming forward," she told a seminar in London. 'There may be some mistaken belief that grants are destined only for grand metropolitan projects." When the commissioners canvassed public opinion they found overwhelming support for environmental and community projects. — Maco Kennedy

Power station in movie bid

MOVE over Pinewood, stand aside Ealing. The future of Britain's film industry may lie in the great turbine hall of a redundant power station at Trawsfynydd, near Blaenau Festinlog, in Wales. A consortium of local councils is promoting the bi hulk as an ideal home for complex movie sets. — Martin



Holman Hunt's masterpiece The Light of the World undergoes expert examination yesterday after being removed from St Paul's Cathedral in London for conservation work. The picture, one of three versions painted by the artist, has been stained by candle smoke and the fingers of the faithful but should be back in place by summer PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

Row erupts as Booker alters rules

occer

atch

Britain's best-known book prize had barely recovered from the recent shock of selecting a relatively uncontroversial winner when it re-established its reputation for conflict A good 10 months before the

awarded to succeed Pat awarded to succeed Pat Barker, literary publishers were angered by a change in the rules. The judges had to plough through a record [41] novels last year and organisers decided something must

As disputes go, it might

one by any previously short-listed writer and another by

your life. I'd still be happy with that, but I don't think my

the award might be scrapped (the late Sir Kingsley Amis); claims of persistent exclusion numbers publishers could enter from three to two, plus one by any previously about the shortlist (Martin Amis); the selection of James Kelman as winner in any one by any previously about the selection of James in any previously and selection of James in any previously any previously and selection of James in any previously and selection of the selection of James in any previously and selection of the selection o ern fiction is an "ordeal" (John Bayley, chairman of the judges, also 1994). But Dan Franklin, publish-

publisher would' - Pat Barker

'Before winning I

prize would be

never having to

think about the

Booker again in

always thought the

best thing about the

rows over suggestions that the award might be scrapped (the late Sir Kingsley Amis): claims of persistent exclusion from the shortlist (Martin end up with a dull, safe list. In

rector of Bloomsbury, said: "I think it's pretty feeble to feel the need to cut back. I should feel sorry for the judges, I read hundreds of books every week.
"If it was left to me, pub-

lishers would not have to make the first choice; the judges should call in the books they want to consider." A spokeswoman for the prize's management commit-tee, which changed the rules, said: "The problem is that the publishers all went a bit mad last year, really. We had to get the number of books down, and this is the only sensible way of doing it."

Barker, who won the £20,000 prize two months ago with The Ghost Road, said: "Before winning, I always thought the best thing about end up with a duil, safe list. in the old days you would discover new writers, not the obvious people. Now you're never going to get any first novels on there, or difficult or dangerous books."

Liz Calder, publishing discovering the best thing about the booker again in your life. I'd still be happy with that, but I don't think my publisher would be."

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in Highlands funding deal

WO of the shackles on the Highland economy were loosened yesterday with the announcement of plans that could revolutionise both land ownership patterns and contact with the outside world.

Erland Clauston

About 1.400 crofters are to be offered the chance to take over — in some cases without charge - their governmentowned estates. The increased business activity expected to spring from this should be aided by a £46 million telecommunications network which will ultimately bring 95 per cent of the region within mobile phone range.

Details of the schemes were Octails of the Schemes were outlined by the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, at the first inverness sitting of the Scottish Grand Committee. He unveiled a mixture of European Union and private sector funding to the region worth £130 million and more than 1,000 new jobs. Around 24 million of EU funding will go towards the telecommunications network, with the 542 million balance provided by Cellnet and Vodafone. Iaip Robertson, chief execu-

tive of Highlands and Islands
Enterprise, said the investment would be invaluable to

AMAN who killed his violent, bullying father while and escaping from custody in the was a teenager and buried length. northern businessmen, as well as offering "potentially lifesaving benefits" to medical staff, fishermen, hill-walkers and motorists.

A further £3.3 million of EU funds will enable Barmac's fabrication yard at Nigg in

numerent estate owners for the stagnation of many High-land communities, will hope that the plan to divest the Scottish Office of its 6.3 mil-lion crofting acres, presages the break-up of a system which has blighted the area for more than two centuries. Mr Forsyth said a consulta-

tion paper would be mailed to tenants outlining the benefits of transferring ownership to of transferring ownersmy are shot his father, Peter Leslie, made to eat man too.

community trusts. "We are shot his father, Peter Leslie, made to eat man too.

In his confession to police, stances justify it, to transfer eventually buried the remains in a house in Forest life he had bullied, hit and cortain crofts free of charge." even prepared, if circumstances justify it, to transfer
certain crofts free of charge."

The Scottish Crofters'
Union broadly welcomed the
proposals. "We hope all Scottish Office crofters seriously
consider the offer," said crofting adviser Fiona Mandeville.

in the head as he slept, and
reventually buried the
remains in a house in Forest
Gate, east London, where it
remained for 17 years.
French denied murdering
pain
hits 53-year-old father but admitted manslaughter. He also
pleaded guilty to several robson."

Crofters offered ownership | Man jailed for 18 years for armed robberies — and killing his father

the body in the cellar was jailed for 18 years yesterday at the Old Bailey.

Stephen French, aged 32, was given five years for man-slaughter, 12 years for a string of robberies and an additional 12 months for escap-

Easter Ross to compete in the international market for floating oil production systems.

Land reformers, who blame indifferent estate owners for the example of many High. gering evil" but said it did not justify the solution.

The court was told after the killing, French, then only 14, wanted to tell police but his mother discouraged him and made him promise to remain silent while she was alive.

It was not until he was in prison on remand for robberies that he called police to his cell and described how he Gate, east London, where it abused the family. I just remained for 17 years. snapped, I didn't want the

Orlando Pownall, prosecuting, told the court how French and others tried to dispose of his father's body. He said acid and lime were

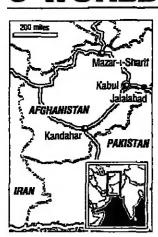
poured on to it to dissolve it but when this failed it was cut in half and put in two drums in the garden and attempts made to burn it. It was a childhood of "stag-gering evil" which had af-fected French throughout his

adult life, said Rock Tansey QC, defending.
The court heard how Mr Leslie would knock out the children's teeth, crack their ribs and point shotguns at their heads and threaten to

shoot them.
Once he forced French to eat a meal containing dog food, bleach and sink cleaner.

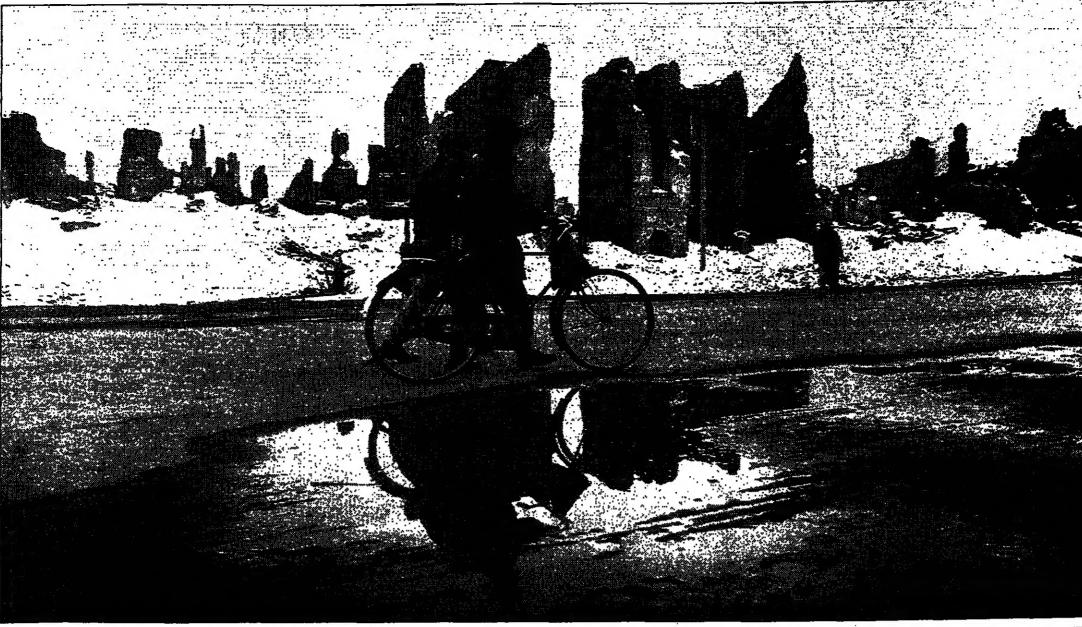
Please charge my:

pain and the continual harassment. "He was just one evil per-



After 18 years of warfare, Afghans can see little difference between rival Muslim factions, and find life as harsh under their present government as they did under its communist predecessor

John Burns reports



Pediars . . . Kabul traders use bicycles to shop for scarce goods beyond the siege lines. Many do not make it back across no man's land to the ruins among which their fellow citizens live PHOTOGRAPHS: SAM FAULKNEH

Kabul's misery wears a single face

rowed bicycles, they planned to cross siege lines south of Kabul, load up with sacks of flour, cans of petrol and bun-dles of firewood, and be back

home by noon.

The threefold price differ-The threefold price difference between the Kabul bazaars and the traders outside the city, they calculated, would give them enough profit to pay the bicycle owners and keep their families from the hunger and cold of Kabul for a month of Kabul for a month.

A few hours later one of them, a former professional boxer called Hamid, was near death in the intensive care unit of a hospital about a mile behind the front lines. He was not expected to survive.

The villagers who found im said the other four were killed by the machine-gun fire that met them as they land between the government troops and the besieging forces of the Taliban, the militant Islamic force which bul's outskirts in the autumn. At least 20 died in such forays

In the dim room where Ha-mid lay semi-conscious, the only sounds were the groan-ing and wheezing of fellow traders and other victims of bombing raids, mines and ar-

tillery barrages. At his bedside his mother, Aysha, said: "The people who

dent and set off a civil war, the last of the Soviet troops who invaded in December 1979, estensibly in support of those Marxist rulers, withdrew, bludgeoned by nine years of fighting American-backed Muslim guerrillas.

In April it will be four years since the puppet communist government the Russians left behind finally collapsed, giv-ing way to a new civil war between rival Muslim groups. In a country that had 15.5 million people before the com-

munist takeover, at least a million have been killed and 2 million displaced within Afghanistan. Six million others were driven across the borders into Pakistan and Iran. and less than half of those have returned in the last four Relief agencies estimate

that about 2 million more have been permanently disabled, physically or mentally. In the crumbling streets and overcrowded hospital wards there is an angry feeling that these are the worst times since the communist takeover. So dispirited is the mood that it is common to hear people say that the "Russian time" — once a synonym if caught outside their homes for brutality — was not so bad with men other than their

"Ah, the Russian time —

IVE young Afghans | did this are no Muslims. They met on a bitterly are the henchmen of Satan, cold morning last week for the gamble of a lifetime. On borbicycles, they planted it is 18 years this spring of a 14-year-old how whose brain had been blown out by s

Taliban bombing raid. In part the gloom is a product of one of the harshest winters in memory: scores go to hospital each morning with

In part it is caused by the scarcity of food, made worse than ever this winter by a tightening of the siege by the Muslim guerrillas groups which control the roads from Jalalahad in the east and Kan-dahar in the south, previously never closed for more than a few days at a time. On Saturday the Interna-

Cross (ICRC) began an emer-gency airlift from Peshawar, 70 minutes across the mountains in Pakistan. It plans to fly more than 1,000 tonnes of wheat to Bagram, a former Soviet air field 20 miles northeast of Kabul which is still under government control. A year ago, when the Tali-ban first reached the gates of Kabul, many in the city saw them as potential liberators, despite their intolerance in

ment was formed and has its eadquarters. There, women were denied the right to work, ordered to wear full vells, and punished

fathers and brothers. Word of these strictures ap-

Madrazo in the 1994 state elec-

tions, which the opposition claims were rigged. Later this

vestigation of the Tabasco PRI's allegedly massive viola-

tion of 1994 campaign spend-ing limits should proceed.

The protests, Mr Madrazo said, were aimed at influenc-

ing the court's decision and

president, Porfirio Muñoz

Ledo, is concerned that it could affect the national dis-

Yesterday's talks were also to consider demands that Pe-

mex cut petrol and domestic

gas prices in Tabasco, present the National Human Rights Commission with plans to

reduce pollution and provide

maintenance for pipelines, one of which blew up in 1994.

demanded the release of six PRD leaders arrested last Fri-

Mr Lopez Obrador has also

logue on political reform.

due later this year.



a lightning offensive and drove them back 30 miles pact in Kabul than the Taliban's success in overwhelming several of the contending from the capital. But in September the Tali-ban was back. After capturing guerrilla groups left over from the Soviet occupation. the western city of Herat from But their promise to end Ismail Khan, an ally of Gen-eral Massoud, they drove

the war then make way for a popularly elected government quickly evaporated as they began pounding Kabul with heavy artillery, just like the guerrillas they supplanted. In May the capital cele-brated when the forces of Ah-

his defences.
Since then the daily artillery harrages have resumed, together with bombing attacks by the Taliban's em-bryonic air force. mad Shah Massoud, the mili-tary commander who is the power behind President Bur-Last week two 1,000lb bombs hanuddin Rabbani's govern-

back up the road to Kabul and

threatened to overrun the city before Gen Massoud stiffened

"entertainers", a suphemism for a booming sex industry. Whereas women accounted

for only 15 per cent of the Asian migrant workforce in

the 1970s, they now equal or outnumber the number of

male migrant workers. A major reason for the

We fought against the country that Ronald Reagan called the evil empire, and it was as a result of our sacrifices that the evil empire collapsed. But afterward we were forgotten'

Najibullah Lafraie, foreign minister

fell on an area of southern Kabul bombed to rubble between 1992 and 1995.Many people still live in the rubble and the bombs killed at least 20 and wounded many more, Hospital emergency rooms were awash with blood.

Thousands more have died. bringing the civilian toll in the capital since the commu-nist collapse in 1992 to at least 25,000, ICRC officials say. The government says the figure is at least 45,000. But even the lower figure is more than the 10,000 to 15,000 said to have died in the 40-month siege of Sarajevo.

Because there is only a vestigial international presence the UN and other organisations has fallen to between of the kind that tried to limit \$40 million and \$60 million a the conflict in Bosnia, and only skeleton staffs at the international relief agencies which distribute food medical supplies and other aid — the distress seems more acute. The government blames the

carnage on Pakistan, which has backed the Taliban, apparently to win favour with two powerful Pakistani groups: the Islamic militants and Pakistan's own ethnic Pashtuns who are indistinguishable from the Afghani Pashtuns who predominate in the Taliban.

Pakistan's role has angered Iran, Russia and India, which have given concerted support in recent months to the Rabbani government, even though it is led by members of the ethnic Tajik minority, which has beld power in Afghanistan only once before in

Planes carrying arms, ammunition, spares and other suppplies paid for by Teheinto Bagram every night.

Almost as much opprobrium is directed at the United States, which poured more than \$5 billion (£3.4 billion) in cash and arms into the Muslim guerrilla struggle against the Soviet forces, then virtually turned its back on Afghan affairs when the cold war ended.
The US Agency for Interna-tional Development ended its

relief effort in 1994 and Amer-

year, the US embassy in Pakistan estimates. American di-plomacy has been limited to encouraging a UN mediation effort which has never come close to persuading the con-tending Muslim groups to stop fighting.

Many in Kabul share the view of Mr Rabbani's foreign minister Naiibullah Lafraie

that the US had a moral res-ponsibility to re-engage in Af-ghanistan's affairs because of its role in the struggle against the Soviet occupation.

"We believed we were fight ing for the freedom of the whole world, not just for the freedom of Afghanistan," he

said.
"We fought against the country that Ronald Reagan called the evil empire, and it was as a result of our sacrifices that the evil empire collapsed. But afterward we were forgotten

But political arguments seem lost on the poorest people of Kabul, who move through their days with an air of hopelessness that seems to be beyond despair. Stories abound of mothers abandoning their children in mosques because they lack food.

To many people the distinctions between the rival Muslim groups have disappeared and the Rabbani government has become virtually indistinguishable from its communist predecessor. - New York

Mexican army moves in to break oilfield blockade

Phil Gunson in Mexico City

ENSION remained high yesterday in the oilfields of south-east Mexico, after a series of operations by the army, navy and police at the weekend to begin removing protesters who had block-aded 51 oil wells.

The leader of the protest movement. Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador of the opposition Party of the Democratic talks with the state-owned oil army was sent in on Friday. But he was due to resume negotiations yesterday. The blockade, whose main

purpose is to secure compen-sation for peasants in Tabasco state whose land has been damaged by drilling, was said by some sources to have cost the company more than \$400,000 (£260,000) a day. among the most important in | of the oil company's contribu-Latin America, and this is the second time in less than a The governor of Tabasco,

year that the PRD has led a blockade of drilling sites.

Mr López Obrador warned in a speech on Sunday that the government would need "20,000 soldlers to control this "The PRD leader lost to Mr López Obrador's political ambitions.

The PRD leader lost to Mr López Obrador's political ambitions. movement, because there are 200,000 of us willing to wage a peaceful struggle for our rights". He said if the ejection week, the supreme court is to of protesters was not halted, a rule on whether a federal in-

corruption allegations, the company claimed virtually all the money was "directly ad-ministered by Pemex", not by state authorities.

The Tabasco oilfields are ever, wants a full-scale audit

blockade of all the state's oil installations would be considered.
Pemex yesterday responded with full-page advertisements in national newspapers detailing nearly \$40 million in financial support to Tabasco state last year. In response to

Mr Lopez Obrador, how-

Garry says he thinks his lounge is "Orrible. Orrible! There's a lotter stonework at one end. There's some statuettes of **Charlie Chaplin and Laurel** and Hardy, my heroes." And he falls about laughing again.

02 page 7

News in brief

Asian women form 'fastest growing pool of cheap labour'

EFT out of Asia's ecomomic success story, women from poorer parts of the region have become the world's fastest growing pool of cheap and often abused mi-grant labour, according to the international Labour Office. Hong Kong.
About 1.5 million women.

mostly from the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and

Earthquakes to blame for Old Faithful's new unpredictability OLD FAITHFUL isn't any more. The world's most famous geyser, in Yellow-stone National Park, is be-coming irregular, writes lan Katz in New York.

"launching Lôpez Obrador's campaign for the national leadership of his party". Mr Lôpez Obrador, a rising Old Fatthful, which used radical in the PRD, is a strong contender for the party presi-dency in internal elections to blast a column of super-heated water 125ft into the air "every bour on the hour" now erupts about every 77 minutes, and with Although the PRD leader ship has expressed solidarity with the Tabasco protest, its less predictability than in the 1970s.

minor earthquakes in the area which may have interfered with the channels directing pressurised bot water up to the silica cone.
They also speculate that
Old Faithful may have become partially blocked by

ands of items thrown in by visitors over the years, including underwear, furniture, beer cans, coins and rifle shells.

Greece snubs US envoy

THE Greek government, Costas Simitis, said: "The facing public indignation programme that Holbrooke at Washington's role in defusing the row with Turkey over a disputed Aegean Island, yesterday forced the US assistant secretary of state, Richard Holbrooke, to cancel his forthcoming visit, writes Helena Smith in Athens.

After a marathon cabinet

proposed does not fit in with the government's schedule. So the visit is not possible." cepting a US-brokered com-promise over the uninhabited islet. Yesterday, tensions reerupted after a near-collision between a Greek coast guard

'xenophobic'

Well-organised smugglers trade increasingly in women.

Among the indignities in-flicted on women working

abroad are pregnancy tests every six months. Others are forced into prostitution after

migrating on promises of le-gitimate work. Domestic ser-vice and entertainment were

Amnesty International said yesterday it had received many reports in the last 10 months of German police beating up detained foreign-ers. It demanded an

investigation. Klaus Steffenhagen, deputy chief of the German police union, conceded there had been isolated instances of police mistreating foreigners but said German police "are clearly not xenophobic" and that Amnesty was exaggerat-ing the problem. — AP.

Korean defection A South Korean man defected to the communist North yes-terday, Pyongyang said. The North's official Korea Central News Agency quoted Jo Won-gi, aged 39, as saying he was disillusioned with the Seoul government - AP.

Chinese tremors More than 300 aftershocks

mostly as maids, nurses and and more prosperous areas of many female migrants de-"entertainers", a emphemism Asia, the ILO said yesterday. fenceless against abuse, said fenceless against abuse, said the ILO report. The abuse of women work-

ers has become a sensitive po-litical issue across Asia. straining relations between countries that send and those that employ them. Poorer countries sporadically vow to half sending citizens overseas surge was a proliferation of gitimate work. Domestic ser-halt sending illegal recruitment agencies vice and entertainment were but have be servicing a growing demand rarely covered by labour laws dent on their for female labour in the Gulf or social security, leaving real action. but have become too depen-dent on their earnings to take

German police the freezing streets of Lijiang. Saturday's quake killed about 250 people. — Reuter. Hostages at risk

Experts voiced concern yes terday about the health of 13 hostages — including four Britons — held by rebels in Irlan Jaya, Indonesia, as they cartered their series. captivity. - Reuter.

Island dispute Nigerian and Cameroonian

troops fought on disputed is-lands in the Bakassi penin-sula at the weekend and sev-eral were killed on both sides, a Nigerian officer said. He said the Cameroonians started the fighting but were pushed back from positions they occupied. — Reuter.

Police car racket Chinese police have seized 105 fake police cars which had

wreaked havoc on roads in Guangdong province, the Beljing-funded China News Agency said yesterday. Police arrested 49 people in raids on yesterday joited survivors of seven centres making or self-China's worst earthquake in ing fake police car licence eight years as they huddled in plates. — Reuter.

Guatemala's leader attacked as pope arrives

yesterday carpeted the streets of Guatemala City with flower-petal images to greet Pope John Paul at the start of his week-long tour

THOUSANDS of Catholics

of Latin America.
The festive atmosphere was marred by what government officials said was Alvaro Arzu on Sunday. Mr Arzu and his wife Pa-

tricia escaped unhurt when a pickup truck appeared to try to ram them as they rode horseback outside the capital. Security men shot and killed the truck driver. The Pope, in a half-hour news conference relayed by satellite phone from his chartered jet, spoke of the region's gaping divide be-tween a rich elite and the poor masses. "The Church's role is to ask for social justice," he said. He said he would promote

equal rights for Amer-indians. Guatemala's majority Maya Indian population converted to Christianity after the Spanish conquest.

The Guatemalan faithful rose at dawn to decorate the miles of streets that the Pope was to travel in his armoured popemobile.
The interior minister, Ro-

dolfo Mendoza, said what he called the "assassination attempt" on the president would not affect the pope's visit. "We hope it won't be more than an isolated incident." - Reuter.

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spute 1

US and Europe haggle over reconstruction bill

Dispute threatens funds for Bosnia

Larry Elliott in Dayos

DISPUTE between the United States and Europe over funding for the \$5.1 billion (£3.3 billion) package to rebuild the Bosnian economy threatens to delay the mas-sive reconstruction effort, it

With the World Bank stressing that work on rebuilding infrastructure, schools and hospitals needed to get under way immediately, US and European Union officials admitted they were still haggling over the shares of the bill.

Richard Holbrooke, US sistant secretary of state for European and Canadian af-fairs, said in Davos yesterday: "It is certainly true that in an era of budgetary constraint all of us are a bit troubled about the amount of aid all of us are going to have to

Just over \$500 million has been found to "jump-start" the Bosnian economy, but the World Bank says this will only be enough for the first three months of 1996.

It is putting pressure on do-nor governments — who are expected to find 90 per cent of the \$5.1 billion — to settle their differences before a special conference in April, which will discuss a full blueprint for the reconstruction of

Bosnia-Herzegovina. Officials are working on a fast-track programme for Bosnia-Herzegovina to join the World Bank in the spring, stressing that implementing the \$5.1 billion package would be far cheaper than continued

ace

5" . W . .

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Christine Wallich. acting

Britain angry at Bildt delay

DRITAIN is angry that the United States has made no contribution to the operation of Carl Bildt, overseeing civilian peace implementation in Bosnia, writes Ion Black.

Foreign Office officials said yesterday that the European Union had paid half of the 20 million ecus slated for his budget but had not received the 20-25 per cent pledged by the US at last December's London conference.
The complaint follows US

criticism of Mr Bildr's pro-gress and a sense that Washington is too focused sed on the military side of

the military effort. There is no time to lose."

nor package is vital to con-vince the people of Bosnia that the peace process is working and to encourage the next stage of the reconstruction process - an influx of

The need for the private sector to move into Bosnia has been one of the main themes of the World Eco-nomic Forum in Davos, and World Bank president Jim Wolfensohn has been lobbying hard among the businessmen gathered for the week of

Ms Wallich said she remained confident that the funding row would eventually be settled. 'Donor countries are aware that we need to change the psychology; that central European division, Bosnians need to see people said last night: "The civilian with jobs, people who are

healthier, people with water and heat. They are also aware that unless these things hap-pen, who knows what will happen at the end of the year [when Nato troops are due to

She said the international community had made a huge humanitarian contribution to Bosnia, but that this now had to be converted into reconstruction: "Ten dollars spent on seeds saves \$100 of food imports."
Mr Holbrooke will discuss

Bosnian funding on his current tour of eastern, central and western European capi-tals. He said the US was fully tion effort, but added: "We want the Europeans to contribute more and they want us to conribute more."

One particular problem for the Clinton administration is the difficulty of getting an aid package through the Republican-dominated Congress.
The international commo

nity's High Representative Carl Bildt, denied that Europe's contribution would depend on the amount se-cured from the US. "The US Congress is one of the issues involved, but it is not the only one. Money is available from the European Commission but it may not be all the money that is needed."

Shrugging off criticism of his performance as High Rep-resentative, Mr Bildt said: "This is a global concern. We are expecting Japan and the Islamic countries to make a full contribution."

Ms Wallich said the World

Bank was urging the Paris Club of creditor countries to be generous about Bosnia's



Defiant protest . . . Armed Chechens shout anti-Russian slogans from the top of a lorry during a rally on Saturday in Tsotsin-Yurt, 22 miles south of the Chechen capital Grozny. Russian armoured vehicles advanced on the former presidential palace in Grozny yesterday after more than 1,000 supporters of the rebel Chechen leader Dzokhar Dudayev gathered for the second day to demand the withdrawal of Russian troops

New boss of news agency 'a threat to freedom'

Paul Webster in Paris

RENCH newspapers expressed concern yesterday at government interference in chairman for the state-subsidised Agence France-Presse (AFP), the world's third-biggest news agency after Reu

paper, would harm the credi-bility and independence of an agency often seen as France's east European country plan-official voice. Liberation in the column of the column o been stained by the "disastrous behaviour" of the prime minister, Alain Juppe, who played an active part in Mr

Miot's nomination.

Le Monde pointed out that nine government MPs contributed to Le Figaro and recalled that President Jacques Chirac had cast doubt on the agency's independence last year by predicting that Mr Miot would become head of AFP — before the job was

The Gaullist-led government has already intervened in the appointment of state-owned radio and television is determined to take control of the main media outlets to ensure more favourable not appear to be losing any sleep over the measure.

High-level dissatisfaction

"The president's project is

High-level dissatisfaction with cut-price rents for coun-

The journalists' trade union, the SDJ, warned AFP's 1,100 staff to be "vigilant" for 1,100 staff to be "vigilant" for possible plans to change the statute guaranteeing its

Mr Miot, chairman of the national newspaper federa-tion, was strongly criticised by other unions, including the Socialist-led CFDT, which said AFP's independence was

Poles plan to dig up skeletons

A bill to trace informers is causing alarm, writes iviatinew Brzezinski

Libération said the appointment of Jean Miot, aged 58. Chairman of the board at the rightwing Le Figaro news-down amid allegations that he worked for Russian intelligence, has become the latest

lective cupboard. Few will have forgotten the wave of divorces in East Germany when, after 1989, it was disclosed that even spouse had informed on one another to the Stast, or the trauma surrounding the former Czech dissident Jan Kavan, disgraced for allegedly co-operating with communist secu-

But Warsaw's project to dip into its communist past has a twist. The bill's author is the new president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, a former com-munist. Not surprisingly, thousands of Poles are anxiously looking over their shoulders. But Mr Kwasniewski's party colleagues do

had been expressed at the a sword that only cuts one way AFP reported allegations way," said Professor Andrzej of corruption against the Paczkowski, a political scientist. "It appears primarily to target former dissidents." It cil flats for him and his is feared vengeful SB agents may have doctored documents to incriminate dissi-dents as the communist

> communist-era secret police, can be forced out of public office. But former bona fide agents would continue to

> operate. Former members of the no-menklatura would also be

Former communists, who now control parliament and the government, and their al-lies from the old secret police had little to fear, Prof Pacz-kowski said. The screening of

At the headquarters of the Freedom Union, the opposition party that groups former Solidarity activists, constar-nation over the bill is running high.
"It's not a screening pro-

cess," complained Gwidon Wujcik, an MP. "It serves to cleanse ex-communists." Mr Wujcik said that his party would be hit hard by the bill if approved by parliament. Another concern is the su-thenticity of the estimated 3 million files the secret police kept that would form the basis for screening.

The most damaging files were destroyed as the Communist regime collapsed. It is thought likely that many files were doctored to incriminate dissidents by bitter SB agents and that innocent Poles may have been added to lists of informants by ambitious agents seeking to impress bosses.

Doctored files brought down the government of the anti-communist prime minis-ter, Jan Olszewski, in 1992, when he started screening Innocent MPs were named as informants and Mr Olszewski had to resign because of the

Ironically, the man chosen to replace Mr Oleksy, the ax-communist Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, was named in 1992 as an informant. Under the criteria of the new screening process, however, he would also be absolved of any wrongdoing.

But even those found guilty of co-operating with the SB could keep their jobs if superiors do not want to sack them — a measure that could further protect former com-munists holding top posts. bill later this month.

Chernobyl effects 'not properly studied'

David Hearst in Tula

ILLIONS of victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster are not getting the compensation due to them because the Russian government camnot afford it.

the old secret police without decommunisation" had no logic. "It's at best a half-time have not received their monthly remittance since last The payments have always

been controversial. Some scientists believe they are a political gesture rather than a reflection of environmental damage caused and the risk of living in the affected areas. Yesterday a leading Russian specialist on radioactive

fallout, Leonid Ilyin, said in Moscow that Russia and the international community had lost a historic chance to moni-tor the medical effects of the

He said the people who had suffered most were the liquidatori: military reservists No one could say with certest on a sample of tooth who were sent into the shat tainty how much radiation enamel.

Cracked sarcophagus threatens fallout replay

plume of radioactivity.

The sarcophagus was

never more than a desper-

ALMOST ten years after the ruins may collapse and in danger of bursting. Yet the Chernobyl power send up another great Ukraine and the European station exploded, restrictions on the sale of lambs from contaminated British In the Tulskaya region are slowly being removed, idly deteriorated. Holes with of Moscow, one of several devices.

In the Tulskaya region are slowly being removed, idly deteriorated. Holes and fissures, some big

But by the time the ban is enough to drive a car finally lifted, according to a through, now cover an esti-new study by Adi Roche, di-mated 1,200 square yards. rector of the The Chernobyl The roughly erected con-cent of Bielarus, which ab-Children's Project, the con-crete walls are reported to sorbed 70 per cent of the Children's Project, the concrete sarcophagus around be sinking. The pillars are fallout, is uncontaminated.

tered reactor to shovel highly ; radioactive debris from the roofs and surrounding buildings. In the first three critical months about 10,000 of them

were used.
"None of these men was registered by name. None was checked on a regular basis, using standardised method-ology. They all went back to their homes and were regis-tered with the local medical

No one could say with cer-

each man suffered, because the method of determining of the main committee of the the levels was so imprecise. Radiation readings were averaged and on this figure the time men were allowed to plan to monitor the men who

from two minutes in the most

langerous to 10 minutes in

the less dangerous — was based. The only way to "reconstruct" each man's dose was an elaborate and expensive

Union cannot raise enough money to build a new containment building.

It may already be too late, Ms Roche writes. "The

Chernobyl"

Meanwhile, by international standards, only I per

In 1990 Prof Ilyin, a member International Commission on decontaminated reactor unit number four of Chernobyl. It the anniversary of the disas-

a mistake. You can not liquidate its consequences. you can only weaken them. Nothing similar had ever hap-pened before. For 10 days radioactive material was being thrown out into the

sia. Ukraine and Bielarus were declared to have lived in phe. But. Prof Ilvin said, no real scientific study was con-

affected and what by.

He maintains, controversially, that many of the effects noticed in cattle in these regions were caused by the than radioactive fallout.

meet in their home towns on was ruled out on grounds of ter. Although the government cost: 500 million roubles.

Prof Byin, who published pay their invalidity pensions an updated version of his on time, and give them flats, book Chernobyl: Myth and they regard themselves as the Reality yesterday, said: "The forgotten heroes of the disasoperation on Chernobyl was ter, many still paying with called The Liquidation of the their lives.

Spanish youth welcomes pin-striped challenger to 'old, corrupt' Socialists

Voters too young to remember Franco warm to an uncharismatic rightwing leader, writes Adela Gooch in Madrid

the students jeered "liar thief". When José Maria Aznar, leader of the conservative opposition, came to call ovation.

The response reflects a shift that will almost certainly propel Mr Aznar's Popular Party (PP) into office in the general

nists, 12 per cent. Spenish youth, the under-

"They have nothing new to say," Maria Martinez, a stu-dent lawyer, aged 20, says. "They're old and corrupt. The country needs a real overhaul."

HEN Felipe González, larities stop there. In his corduroy-jacket-wearing youth, Mr González, now aged 53, aroused a passionate following. Mr Aznar, aged 42. a sober, pin-stripe-suited for-mer tax inspector, provokes a cautious response. He is wooing voters with a tough pre-scription: financial austerity and administrative integrity after 13 years of spendthrift, dishonest Socialist rule.

> lack of charisma, the young seduction, he says: "Spain has had enough of it." "He seems a more decent

for a change," says Eva Robles, aged 21, a student at Madrid's catering and tourism college, where training for a job in Spain's biggest earning industry begins at Many PP policies are aimed

at the young, including a pro-posal to reduce compulsory military service from nine months to six. Both parties make job creation a priority. Spain has one of the highest general unemployment rates in Europe, at more than 20 per cent. The figure is double that for the under 29s. The Socialists propose sharing out the work available. Mr Aznar promises to acti-

Despite his self-professed warm to him. Referring to Mr

> by his claim to be able to do this without cutting welfare spending, approve. 'I think with Aznar there'll be more work and the condi-tions will be better," Jaime Martinez, a trainee hotel manager, says.

The PP, presenting itself as a centre party to avoid links with the right's fascist past, is moderate on social issues excessively so for some tastes "We should make it much harder to obtain an abortion," says Maria Meiras, a law student in yuppie garb. "You can't do that," her

friend Santiago objects. "You

professional training and | Those aged over 50, who making it easier to hire and manned the barricades sack workers. The young less against General Franco and concerned than other groups formed the backbone of Socialist support, often appear exasperated by their more moderate descendants. But it is a credit to them that younger Spaniards should take democracy for granted rather than treating it with the circumspection and occasional abuse reserved for an unfamiliar toy.

In the law faculty, a bunch and economic liberals into a of students in leather and democratic, centre-right jeans sit cross-legged on the force.
floor. "Of course, we worry about politics." Raul, aged 19, dissenters' courage fails. says. "We're lawyers, we think about these issues." Both he and his friend Maria "They're the real Socialists," peers.

Maria José says. They say the judicial process underway to try a former minister and other members of the adminwith "death squad" killings of suspected Basque separatists in the mid 1980s should "go

"Aznar has used the GAL power and now wants to close the issue because it is sensitive and could embarrass some of his own people," another student adds, demand-ing a "real debate on Europe like other countries have. González thinks it's the greatest thing ever and doesn't give us a chance to think

At the catering school, Mr Aznar has just finished his meet-the-young visit, where stirred chicken stew and gin gerly sipped a Manhattan

A gaggle of aspiring chefs gather outside the door. Let's shout "facha, facha," (fascist, fascist) as he leaves, one

suggests.
It is an unfair accusation. Mr Aznar's great achieve-ment has been to silence the remnants of the old nationalist, autocratic right in his ranks and blend them with former Christian Democrats

"We're lawyers, we Only one of them dares to about these issues." shout "Facha." The insult Both he and his friend Maria fades, unheard by Mr Arnar José plan to vote for the IU. and ignored by the youth's

Swedish men suffer surge in violence by women

Greg McIvor in Stockholm

EN in Sweden are on V the receiving end of an friends, according to figures published yesterday.

Some 300 men lodged offi-cial complaints last year after suffering domestic attacks by their partners, confirming a growing inci-dence of violence by women against men, the Stockholm daily newspaper Expressen

One complainant, Magnus Eriksson, agen 22. has launched criminal proceedings against his former girlings a

friend after allegedly being physically battered while being ejected from the flat "I am not seeking the couple shared.
"She hit me twice, hard

upsurge in violent assaults in the face, and spat on me." he said. The woman, me." he said. The woman, described as "older and athletic", then allegedly knocked him over and pinned him down. "She screamed as loud as she could in my left ear. I con-

noise in it now."

Mr Eriksson, who claims
the injury has impaired his musical career, said not all men had muscles like Rambo or Arnold Schwar-

revenge. But I must exercise the right that so few Swedish men in our land of equality choose to exercise," he said. Sweden, with almost

equal numbers of men and renowned for its equality. But researchers say many the IU. The Socialists barely stantly hear a beeping male battery victims are too get a look in. Mikael Rying, of the National Crime Prevention Board, said: "It is a bit like incest. Once you start to talk about it, more and

election on March 3. He is making a strong attempt to win an all-out majority, to govern unhampered by Catalan and Basque nationalists who would otherwise hold the The polis give him about 40 per cent of the vote; the Socialists slightly more than 30 per cent, and the United Left (IU), or former commu-

25s, who include about a mil-lion first time voters, are a critical, possibly decisive, constituency with firm views. Those on the centre-right sup-port the PP; those on the left,

Both Mr Gonzalez and Mr | vate the job market by gradu-Aznar are lawyers. The simi- ally cutting taxes, improving alienate centrists."



José Maria Aznar: Former tax inspector bound for office

The Guardian

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The tools for the job

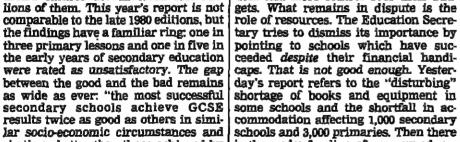
Education reform will inevitably cost money

tors permanently focused on the perennial strugglers at the bottom of division three: Lincoln City, Darlington, Northampton? Indeed, how much joy would there be if attention was confined to the losers in the premier league: Coventry. QPR and dare we say it, Manchester City? Football is joyful because winners get more attention than losers. Television producers vie with each other for the most attractive teams: Manchester United, Newcastle and perhaps the oc-casional London club. So three cheers for the Chief Inspector's annual report yesterday for including a list of 200 specially commended schools. Nursery, primary, and secondary schools were all included in this "testament to success". They are not just achieving good results but are doing so "in comparison to schools in similar circumstances". It is not just a leafy suburb list. The inner city is there too.

There is, as usual, a downside also. Ever since an earlier Chief Inspector lifted the curtain in 1988, media coverage has been dominated by the bad news: the one in three classes which dren's futures are involved too. Milthe findings have a familiar ring: one in three primary lessons and one in five in the early years of secondary education were rated as unsatisfactory. The gap between the good and the bad remains as wide as ever: "the most successful secondary schools achieve GCSE results twice as good as others in similar socio-economic circumstances and six times better than those achieved by the least successful in less favoured areas." Such disparities cannot be ignored by policy-makers, the profession

HOW much joy would there be in foot-ball if correspondents and commenta-tor's snapshot cannot capture is the process of change. Just as the Plowden reforms in the 1960s were already being introduced into primary schools before the Committee reported, so too the recommendations of the "three wise men" were already beginning to take hold even as their report was released in January, 1992. It is not just the inspectors but researchers who found there had been too big a move away from whole class learning in primary schools. But the research figures quoted by the Chief Inspector yesterday on primary learning settings (eight per cent in groups, 15 per cent in class and 77 per cent on their own) may already be shifting. We will have a better idea next year when the first returns of a new monitoring process on primaries will be available. But even the Chief Inspector acknowledges "an increasing willingness of teachers to review good

Good schools need more than good teachers. There are two other crucial determinants: leadership and resources. The importance of headteachers is now widely recognised with were rated poor or unsatisfactory. This coverage is not just because of the training and the skills which they need. media's carnivorous appetite. Chil- All heads have been given more freedom and more control over their budpointing to schools which have succeeded despite their financial handicaps. That is not good enough. Yesterday's report refers to the "disturbing" shortage of books and equipment in some schools and the shortfall in ac-commodation affecting 1,000 secondary schools and 3,000 primaries. Then there is the under-funding of nursery education, which is crucial in raising primary standards. Simple maths dictate schools need more pennies and pounds.



bution a graduate is, in prin-ciple, able to make. Isn't the underfunding of all services a consequence of Tory dogma: the divine right of the individual to keep as much of his own money as possible? L R Armstrong. 18 Stanley Avenue, POrtsmouth PO3 5PN.

> HE need for an alterna-tive to the current university funding system is undeni-able. However, the However, the Conservative solution ignores the problems of those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. It also fails to mention the need for a repay-ment system which must nec-essarily be linked to income. These issues must be tackled if the economy is to retain tal-ented people attracted to the

We do care

WE AGREE with every-thing said about the new

asylum law by the Bishop of Woolwich and others (Let-

ters, February 3), except their statement that "we can

only assume that no political

party is willing to sustain a just system of dealing with refugees because of the un-

popularity of their cause at

There is no more bitter ex-

perience in politics than com-ing under friendly fire for not

doing what one has done.

Other parties may wish to speak for themselves. For the

Liberal Democrats, we op-posed these regulations with passion and a three-line whip in both Houses. If the authors

of the letter can show us one

act either of commission or of omission by which we may

have given the impression

regulations was anything

less than total, we would be

grateful if they could tell us

David Alton MP.

House of Lords.)

Westminster

Houses of Parliament,

Smoke screen

SO Adrian Rogers did not actually watch a blue

movie (Labour delight as blue

movie row gives star role to Tory, February 5) — he

stayed outside and "worked the lights". Just as Bill Clin-

ton smoked cannabis - "but

did not inhale". How long be-

fore a politician admits to

sleeping with a woman "but did not insert"?

David Buckingham.

Please include a full postal

address, even on e-mailed

24 Hill Close.

Pennsylvania,

London SWIA GAA.

Earl Russell.

that our opposition to these

the polls".

GARET

Letters to the Editor

ian's view that a graduate tax is "the fairest way of repaying the benefits of university life", shouldn't everyone in the country who ever

one in the country who ever benefited now make repayments (Leader, February 3). At one time, a university degree was thought to enable the holder to earn a higher income and therefore pay more tax, which in itself is a way of repaying society, in addition to the greater contribution a graduate is, in prinduction as the second contribution as t

N LINE with the Guardian's view that a graduate yet require education to tax is "the fairest way of paying the benefits of uni-West Midlands NUS Area Convenor 1994-5.

Selly Park,

An economics tutorial

T IS the new equivalent of the first cuckoo of spring: 'Vice-chancellors propose top-up fees". Each year for about a decade, someone from their august ranks has made such a proposal.

The Committee of Vice-

Chancellors and Principals should decide what education system they aspire to. They can continue to squeeze more students into the system without extra resources or they can tell the Government that expansion without additional funding has to stop. Or they can choose to abandon the principle of free tuition that has been a charished ball-mark of British higher education for so many years.

51 Ravenshaw Street, London NW6. THE most pressing ques-tion that is always asked when hopeful sixth-formers are being shown around uni-

Tim Walker.

posals to abolish grants and make loans larger, the only people left taking degrees will be those lucky few whose loan will be paid off by mum and quently has no practical dad and people like myself moral bearing by deciding to who take every penny avail-leave one's car at home, or to able and will think about the refuse certain privileges for consequences later (I'm currently looking at around of self-sacrifice serve only to

26,000 by the time I finish). It appears that the change in demography of students in recent years, from the elits few to the classiess many, is only going to be a brief adven-ture for this country's

Ben Wheeler. Elm Tree Cottage, The Green. Frampion-on-Sever Gloucestershire GL2 782.

WOULD suggest that those graduates who have suc-cessfully completed at least one year of postgraduate research have their tuition loans written off. This is be-cause they will have gener-ally carried out useful research work for little finan-

cial return. Alexander Chablo. 23 Goulden Road, "caring" professions which versity is not "How good is

The royals' private lives, philosophically speaking

MARY Midgley (To do the deected specifically to take part in the making of policy. They are politicians. In Holtzension between ideals and practices as "the elastic that pulls us forward". For most of us, steadfast adherence to san to represent the state on the control of the pulls us forward". For most of us, steadfast adherence to high ethical principles frerefuse certain privileges for one's family, our solitary acts

of self-sacrifice serve only to purify our moral consciences. But senior public figures are in a different league. They have unprecedented power to confer on their private decisions a moral value by explaining their ideals to the rest of society and offering their conduct as an example. With unique access to mass With unique access to mass means of communications, these people can transform purely symbolic acts of prin-ciple into exemplary moral behaviour which influences

the conduct of others.
Our public figures are therefore hypocritical when they justify their self-interested actions with claims that they are those of "tens of thousands of parents up and down the country". Finn Bowring. 5 Ladysmith Avenue, Sheffield S7 1SF.

ARY Midele brand of republicanism springs from fear that the present beir to the throne may well prove to be a progressive political influence. Welcome as such benevolent feudalism might have been in the past, it would today be constitutionally dubious and democratically distasteful, and would serve to confuse the real issue: the monarchy is flawed at birth by its archaic hereditary basis and the bogus "Happy Family" straitjacket into which it is forced, placing intolerable strains on the hapless individuals involved. A republi-can president would come into office unencumbered by such self-destructive emotional baggage.

PACE MARY Midgley, the tabloids are performing a perhaps unwitting service, not in retailing salacious gos-sip, but in thereby drawing sip, but in thereby drawing attention to a lavishness of lifestyle and a dependency on vast inherited wealth and on charity from the state, quite out of keeping with the ideals of the state stself. The crucial factor is whether the head of eather is given as constituted. state is given an overtly political role. The US and France

Tom Egan.

Dyfed SA41 3UP.

Jericho, Eglwyswrw,

formal occasions. Yet we alone among them keep the trappings of a full-blown aristocratic, even feudal, leader. long after political powers have been stripped away. The difference here between form and substance is immense. Dr breaking-point. David Hesketh.

Lindisfarne, Northumberland Road, Tyne and Wear NE40 SPT.

THINK I can answer Bel Mooney's question (Letters, February 1) about why jour-nalists like Catherine Bennett hate the Prince of Wales so not his chaotic and less thanperfect personal life, but his open commitments to communities, the environment. multi-cultural continuities, and the reality of soul or

Such things are deeply of-fensive and indeed personally threatening for the modernist unreligion of secularism, of which the great majority of journalists are devout mem bers. In extreme Vithat Rupert Murdoch's takes the form of loathing anything that does not answer directly to the body's direct physical and emotional needs, and clinging to a sour creed of rationalism, materialism and jejune cynicism. Julie Burchill's crowning of Catherine Bennett (Letters, February 2), whose every gar, perfectly makes my point. But the soul is like any respect: it shrivels from disuse. Burchill ought to be able to understand that. Patrick Curry.

> London W14 0ÅD. BEL MOONEY has rightly risen in support of the royal family and of the decent values shared by the majority of the British population. The disagreeable tone of Julie Burchill's letter exposes the lie that violence is the chief common denominator of humanity in all its real repulhumanity in all its real repul-siveness in an age in which (as Yeats put it) "the cere-mony of innocence is drowned". Ours is certainly a less happy society due to the corruption of the cynical media's malevolent influence

1 Redan Street

upon us all. Hugh Berger. The National Forum Trust. 34 Kensington Park Gardens, London W11 2QT. have presidents who are

There is no quick fix in Bosnia The political means to peace still need to be worked out

juaged a success but the hard part lies ahead. Superficially Mr Christopher's enterprise can be compared to his mediation in the Middle East: no one expects that to produce results in a hurry. In former Yugoslavia too, he is being cast as the firm but kindly "father figure". But there is a significant difference. The US has been nudging along a dialogue between Israel and Syria for the past five years as part of a broader longterm commitment to the region. Washington has only plunged in to the Balkan pool over the past year: previously it just dipped an inconsistent toe. Worse still, there is an implied cut-off date for effective intervention since the Clinton administration has made no secret of its desire to get out within the

Last week a leaked report from the White House, summarising the views of all the US intelligence agencies, took a pessimistic view of the future beyond 1996. It said that the former combatants would continue to share a deep mutual mistrust, seeking to achieve their fundamental goals while rejecting compromise. We would like to believe that this is over-gloomy. The Middle East has shown how the habit of reconciliation can grow over time when there are the minimum conditions for peace. But much less flexible. The Dayton agree- the civilian objectives of Dayton.

US SECRETARY of State Warren Chris- | ment delivered the end — a fine federal topher will be back again. His trip to structure on paper with any number of Sarajevo and Belgrade may have been relevant appendices. But it left the olitical means to be worked out fully on the ground. What has been achieved so far has been almost entirely in the military sphere. The rival factional armies have pulled back along nearly one thousand kilometres and have vacated whole regions which are being swapped between the Sarajevo-Croat Federation and the Bosnian Serb "entity." This achievement should not be belittled and there is a welcome determination of the Nato forces to act decisively. But the political agenda presents a long list of problems ahead. These include investigating war crimes and human rights issues, seeking to check the de facto spread of ethnic cleansing as territories are exchanged (let alone reverse its consequences), holding democratic elections within six to nine months, restoring law and order and establishing an effective police force, tackling the crisis presented by hundreds of thousands of displaced persons, and rebuilding the devastated infrastructure of the entire region.

It would be wiser not to lean exclusively on Mr Christopher. The European contributors to the Nato force quietly realise now that -- whatever the imperatives of Mr Clinton's re-election campaign — they cannot pull out so fast from Bosnia. This in turn requires Bosnia is far less stable while at the much greater diplomatic effort and same time its own peace process is more support for Carl Bildt in pursuing

Just add DNA to taste

You say tomato, I say genetic nightmare

an early candidate for genetic engineering. Long before recent events caused it to be dubbed "Frankenstein's plant", it led a Jekyll and Hyde existence. For a start it's a fruit that thinks it is a vegetable: a native of South America yet was first eaten in Britain before finding horticultural perfection in Italy: it is harmless yet was thought during the 19th century to be poisonous. With a CV like that no wonder it feels confused. There is no doubt also that during the 20th century it has undergone a personality change. It simply doesn't taste as nice as it did

decades ago. Yesterday Sainsburys and Safeway introduced what Tony Blair might call New Tomato — a puree made from tomatoes genetically modified by blocking out the action of an enzyme which

THE TOMATO was destined to become | the Press Association was that it was a "hit". But this is only the first step towards what could be the next agricultural revolution. Crick and Watson didn't labour in their laboratories just to produce a modified sauce for hamburgers. Soon there will be genetically modified bananas, melons and caffeinefree coffee. If they don't meet consumer resistance then more and more of our food and drink will be affected by genetic engineering. There are grave potential dangers as the Genetics Forum warned yesterday. But there are also huge opportunities for enrichment. Most people will agree with the Consumers Association that, providing the products are properly tested, there is no reason why they should not be sold as long as the consumer is given a choice. Who knows, one day they may even find a way for the tomato to have a rots the fruit. The initial reaction from sex change so it can become the fully a panel of trainee chefs assembled by fledged vegetable it clearly craves to be.



Yorkshire Water's leaky logic

Ame that in years past, after a heavy snowfall, council workers would shovel the snow off the streets and on to lorries, then tip the loads into

Ten inches of snow fall on Sheffield: for a week, the pavements are covered with ice, and the roads narrowed by S Yorkshire S7 1FJ.

MAN in his seventies tells | piles of snow. Yorkshire Water announces that drought measures must apply, because reservoir levels are so low. And 20,000 people in Sheffield are jobless. Are these things connected? 289 Abbeydale Road, Sheffield

A brief lesson in Greek philosophy so that we can correct this wrong impression.

Before doing so, we would be grateful if they could consult the Bishop of Ripon, who speaks for the bishops on this issue in the House of Lords. THE totally avoidable on CUP to suppress a book. In conundrum described by 1972, after two years' inten-teonard Doyle (Academic upside work at CUP's request, I Leonard Doyle (Academic uproar at banned book. February 2) could be a blow to freedom of expression, but not in

issue in the House of Lords, whose admirable contribu-Greece. In our country we deeply respect and live by the famous dictum: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will de-fend to the death your right to tions have been even worse reported than ours, and, being present throughout the Lords debate, can confirm everything in this letter. Liz Lynne MP. say it."

Freedom of speech is total in Greece, to such an extent that some people (thankfully Baroness Williams. (Liberal Democrats in the different ones, at different times and on different issues)

never cease complaining it is being abused. There is argument, often passionate, and refutation, often vehement --but never any violence. The worst possible fate that could befall a Cambridge University Press book on an anthropological subject in Greece would be indifference, spiced perhaps with the odd verbal attack against it in the column of some obscure ex-

tremist publication. Intolerant voices do of course exist, as in most countries, but so far they have always dismally failed to silence anyone. In Greece at least. Elias Gounaris. Ambassador, Greek Embassy, 1a Holland Park, London W11 3TP.

T IS with a sense of grim irony that I read James Pettifer's letter (February 3) Shrewton, Salisbury, letters, and a telephone number. about Foreign Office pressure | Wilts SP3 4HB

completed The Politics of Medical Manpower, a book dealing with conditions of work in the NHS. The NHS was at the time facing reforms under Sir Keith Joseph: and the nation nov knows only too painfully how far that particular philosophy has led. The original reader applauded the manuscript and pronounced it ready for publication.

A second reader was

immediately brought in and, at the instance of Anthony Wilson (who has now risen to Chief Executive), the book vas summarily refus Through legal action I came to see CUP's internal file on

the book, revealing the second reader as sending the MS to the Department of Health & Social Security, later adding the rider: "I later adding the rider: "I think it is important that the author should not know that his book has been read by DHSS because it was read un-officially by a DHSS staff member who should remain anonymous.

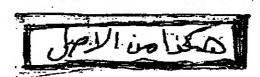
Here was glaring evidence of DHSS interference leading to covert censorship and restriction of academic freedom. Now history is seem-ingly repeating itself. Adrian Tibbitts. Haytons Bent, Nett Road,

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE: From the road, closed, some stems of dogs the path into the western mercury had been tempted the path into the western woods led down the steep valbut at least I was sheltered from those cutting, icy blasts. A passer-by, being walked by his dog, paused long enough to tell me how quiet it was. "Everything is still asleep," he said, and so it appeared at first glance. Only the sound of running water broke the silence, as the river rushed over and around smooth-edged rocks that had been exposed as the water level dropped in the prolonged drought. But life was beginning to stir in the wood: in a secluded corner, hidden away from general view, straight and narrow, grey-green leaves of the wild daffodil had appeared, and were about two inches tall; still curled over, with tiny green buds brush-

woods led down the steep valley slope to the river bank
and, once under the trees, I
was out of the bitter easterly
wind that had persisted for
several days. It was still cold
but at least I was sheltered
out into the open. But most
noticeable were the few
bright yellow hazel catkins
that had fully opened. I hadn't
noticed much bird activity
until a nuthatch flew into a
beech tree close by and out into the open. But most beech tree close by and started to call. Almost immediately, a nearby silver birch was alive with birds — a winter feeding flock on its rounds. Long-tailed tits made up most of the group, chattering to each other as they flitted through the branches, the remainder being a mixture of great and blue tits and two tiny goldcrests working hard to keep up with the rest of the group. I watched them searching each nook and cranny, pecking, hovering and hanging, but never still. Suddenly, without warning, they were without warning, they were off, moving quickly through the trees along the river bank and as I turned to head back to the road, the wood had gone quiet again.

J M THOMPSON



Diary

latthew Norman

HE recent history of the Times is replete with triumphs (sharerice bingo, becoming a Mi-cosoft freesheet, the entire ditorship of Gentleman harlie Wilson . . .), but we on always squeeze in one nore. Hats aloft, then, to ditor Peter Stothard, who as banned the Oxford modrn historian Norman Stone n a frightul bate. After ending a piece to the imes, Professor Stone opped up in Henry Porter's siece in Thursday's Guardan, illustrating the decline in intellectual standards with the words: "Look at, for instance, the way the Times is going," Later that morning, a fax arrived. "It was from Daniel Johnson yes, Paul's son — at the Times," says the Professor. "He's an old mate, and was very contrite about it, but he said that Peter Stothard was livid, and had banned me from writing for the paper again." The Professor confesses a sense of shock. "It's pretty staggering. If you fill your pages with loads of stuff about underwear, you can hardly pre-tend it's the same paper as it was 30 years ago. Still, I'll survive." Indeed so, and so will the spiked article, which will appear on this

ROM the Lynne Franks PR agency comes news of the most enticing national event since the ill-fated Splash and Flush Week. National Prune Week starts on Febuary 19, and the press release from Rachel begs us to call, "should you require any facts and figures on Cal-ifornia prunes". I ring at once, and swiftly learn that from August 1 to December 31 1995, 4.3 million pounds of Californian prunes were imported. That is Rachel's only fact so far, but she will search for more. And what are the main events planned for Prune Week? "Basi-cally," says Rachel, "it's a week-long worship of the prune." No events at all, then?"No, none."

AY what you will about my old friend Harry Greenway, you must admire his timing. Last Friday, we learned how the cerebral MP for Ealing North stopped a roadelse because it would have added seconds to the drive to Parliament he prefers to a fatiguing three-minute walk. Also on Friday, meanwhile, Harry's regular column appeared in the Ea-ling Gazette. His topic? are sorted" was the head-line, beneath which that fearless warrior for road improvement wrote of one traffic scheme: "Ealing Council must pull its finger out and get on with the job. before the people of Northolt really rise up in indigna tion." Could you make it up? I'm by no means convinced that you could.

N yet another political masterstroke, the Dep-uty Prime Minister advises small businesses to delay paying their debts as long as possible. The Diary looks forward to Mr Heseltine pushing through a refund (backdated to 1994, if you please) for those who paid huge fines for lateness in paying their VAT.

TEVEN Murray writes from Dumfries with an engaging tale about Prince Philip. This one was not taped off a phonecall in the orthodox manner, but witnessed by a driver in the Diplomatic Protection Branch. Some years ago. Philip was head-ing for the north of Scotland when his train broke down, stranding him on a remote and freezing station platform in the early hours. When the driver arrived to collect the Duke, he found a very nervous station manvery net vous academic seger leading him towards his office, muttering: "Step this way, sir, and I shall entertain you until the train is fixed." "Why?" said the Duke, staring icily at the man, "are you a thring jug-gler". I bet Kitty Kelley hasn't got that one in her wrethed little book.

HE postponement of a railway privatisation because of alleged ticke fraud has given rise to a rew platform annourcement. Trains between London and Southend vere cancelled on Suntay morning due to the wrong kind of thieves on the



Even common sense to every initiative being floated before the IGC. Prudent statesmanship would have ordained some conspicular before the IGC. Prudent statesmanship would have ordained some conspicular before the IGC. Prudent statesmanship would have ordained some conspicular before the IGC. Prudent statesmanship would have ordained some conspicular before the IGC. Prudent statesmanship would have ordained some conspicular before the IGC. Prudent statesmanship would have ordained some conspicular before the IGC. Prudent statesmanship would have ordained some conspicular before the IGC. Prudent statesmanship would have ordained some conspicular before the IGC. Prudent statesmanship would have ordained some conspicular before the IGC. gets the veto

Commentary

Hugo Young

************* ■ ELMUT KOHL used to be the man John Major courted for his love. Now he is the man the Tory party loves to hate. In each guise he has served the purpose of the mo-ment. It's a commentary on the utter unreliability of Mr Major's own European trajectory that the Chancellor's shift from prophet to demon is a perception he doesn' even begin to resist.

Kohl is a man of our time, but also of another time. He bestrides Europe today, but his idea of Europe was formed the day before yesterday. Since that formation occurred when his country came close to destroying Europe in the worst war in history, it's net-ther surprising nor ignoble that Kohi's attitude draws on an abundant fear of nationalism. At the weekend, he made a defining speech which Europe to remember this, and not to retard the process of integration. For such appre-

tives as some creature out of

These ideas of Kohl's, drawing on the last war to make an omen for the next, are certainly unfashionable. They which he's seeking to breathe has been precisely that it made war unthinkable, a con-dition which Talleyrand and Bismarck, Palmerston and even Churcill, could never have conceived of. Yet the German leader asks us to doubt the permanence of this, while Tory Euro-phobes ask us to acclaim it as a construct so durable that it needs no

further vigilance.
This contrast is much more than an ironic paradox. Ridi-culing Kohl's fear of war is a way of evading the real chal-lenge he presents, which con-cerns a larger continent than the west of Europe, and in-vites the partners of the present EU to consider how they should address the many nationalisms seething on their borders. War between France and Germany may be an unli-kelier prospect even than the resurrection of Jean Monnet and Francols Mitterrand

hensions, he is joyously coming Intergovernmental rebuked by British Conserva- Conference to review the Maastricht Treaty. It's a question the British

Conservative Government has disqualified itself from answering. Not only does Britain have no solution, it contest the achievement of has all but abdicated the right the very institution into to be heard in any forum of constructive argument on the new life, the European Union.
The historic case for the EU divisions has the Prime Minhas been precisely that it ister allowed himself to become that he seems incapable of permitting a single particle of the national interest to count for more than the task of pretending they do not exist.

Consider his present

stance. There's quite a lot to be said for his scepticism about economic and mone-tary union, his attitude of wait-and-see. Actually, everyone will wait and see. The British opt-out is not, in the real world, as unique a quar-antine against infection as the Government pretends. But Britain, under either party, now seems almost cer-tain to withhold sterling until it can be seen whether the new euro-currency works. Al-though the more zealous partners detest the gloating pessimism they hear from London. the broad British position is

one they understand. But what has accompanied it? Not an effort to be con-structive on other matters, but root-and-branch hostility

ous displays of belief in the EU project at other levels. In particular, it would suggest recognising a single proposi-tion of vital interest to any country which is as keen as Britain is on the enlargement of "Europe": that the EU must further integrate, or die. In-stead there has been none of this. Close scrutiny of ministerial attitudes over the past two years throws up hardly a single statement about the EU which is other than critical, aggressive, disdainful or corrective. The awful stage has been reached where the only minister who breaks the pat-tern. Kenneth Clarke, is being readied for kebabbing.

This treason on common sense, now assumed to be so normal that perhaps I should feel embarrassed to mention it, has many consequences. Take only the area to which

Ridiculing Kohl's fear of war is a way of evading the real challenge he presents

Chancelior Kohl so ridicu-lously draws attention. Mass-tricht created the idea of a common foreign and security policy, and wrote into law the availability of qualified ma-jority voting to conduct it as long as everyone, in a par-ticular crisis, reached prior agreement to use the process. Very little has happened. The Bosnian disaster proved to be deeper than Europe could handle, and Douglas Hurd's assertion that the use of QMV would have changed nothing may be correct. But instead of

ported by ministers from the Foreign Secretary down-wards, with sour compla-cency, as if it proved Euro-pean foreign policy a dangerous irrelevance. In fact, there is much mate-

rial for constructive discussion. A common policy requires a sophisticated mix of respect for the large powers with recognition of the rights of small ones. Whether through vetoes for the Big Five, schemes for enhanced majorities, the re-definition of the meaning of consensus, the exemption of objectors from participating in military action they disagree with, or many other possibilities, imagination can be put to the service of a Europe that counts for something in the making and keeping of a new order. But first the Kohl analysis has to be taken seriously. It is necessary to grant that momentum towards such a distant goal can be sustained without falling foul of the coarse nationalism which

coarse nationalish which Tory politicians, even as they denounce Kohl's fear of it, so hideously defend.

It may be too late to hope that the White Paper the Government is now preparing, to guard its back before the IGC, will contain any whilf of such alementary, large-minded. elementary large-minded-ness. Seldom has a state paper been so obviously designed as a party manifesto. Chancellor Kohl may have exposed himself to the charge of slightly apocalyptic grandiloquence, but he is talking about some-

thing real, from the high ground of a statesman. The Conservative Party is a body whose horizons, which once touched Budapest and Warsaw, now reach no further than the green, bloody benches in the House beside

favour, compared with 32 per cent of Germans. But the euro is not Kohl's

only problem. Away from the tensions and quarrels over the euro, the bigger perspective sees Germany acutely ill-at-ease with the vision of itself as the principal external agent promoting economic and political stability in the former communist world on its east-ern borders. This too is a project that Kohl wants subsum within a bigger integrated Europe. In its absence Ger-many fears being left on its own with a problem to which, for geographical reasons alone, t can never be indifferent.

S the Chancellor stressed at the week-end, Germany has its own reasons for being keener on European ise that personal finance may more neighbours than any other country in Europe," Kohl said. "What the other day, "you'd have happened in the other day," you'd have happened in the other day, "you'd have happened in the other day," you'd have happened in the other day, "you'd have happened in the other day," you'd have happened in the other day, "you'd have happened in the other day," you'd have happened in the other day, "you'd have happened in the other day," you'd have happened in the other day, "you'd have happened in the other day," you'd have happened in the other day, "you'd have happened in the other day," you'd have happened in the other day, "you'd have happened in the other day," you'd have happened in the other day, "you'd have happened in the other day," you'd have happened in the other day, "you'd have happened in the other day," you'd have happened in the other day, "you'd have happened in the other day," you'd have happened in the other day, "you'd have happened in the other day," you'd have happened in the other day, "you'd have happened in the other day," you'd have happened in the other day, "you'd happened in the other day," you'd happened in the other day, "you'd happened in the other day," you'd happened in the other day, "you'd happened in the other day," you'd happened in the other day, "you'd happened in the other day," you'd happened in the other day, "you'd happened in the other day," you'd happened in the other day, "you'd happened in the other day," you'd happened in the other day, "you'd happened in the other day," you'd happened in the other day, "you'd happened in the other day," you'd happened in the other day, "you'd happened in the other day," you'd happened in the other day, "you'd happened in the other day," you'd happened in the other day, "you'd happened in the other day," you'd happened in the other day, "you'd happened in the other affects us directly, and vice versa." In other words, if the EU fails to integrate eastern Europe, Germany will feel forced to go it alone. This
This cultural shift, I guess, irresistibility triggers Geris what Labour is trying to get

us to the mast like Ulysses, that we be not tampted to A nation without a protective pursue our interests. Bind us state is a brutal nation, they mental Conference with a European common foreign and security policy (CFSP) by majority voting if neces-sary. Yet the irony — and more — is that even Germany will break the bounds when it perceives its national interests at stake. The locus classicus here was the fateful recognition of Croatia by Europe at the end of 1991. This was pushed through by Bonn when, had a system of voting such as it now advocates been in force, Germany might have failed to get its way.

By instinct and inheritance.

Germany remains fully signed

up for the creation of a maximalist CFSP. Yet increasingly this too sounds like an old and unachievable agenda, repeated out of duty and for fear of the alternatives. The British certainly believe that they have the alternative. Foreign policy, said Malcolm Rifkind in Munich at a German-British seminar last weekend, is quintessentially weekend, is quintessentially intergovernmental. Nations can cooperate, but they cannot pretend they do not have interests which on occasion they will assert in defiance of the majority, especially where military matters were con-cerned. That point was rammed home by the junior defence minister Nicholas Soames, who told the Munich seminar that the IGC must keeps its hands off defence. European policy had to be based on "identity through ca-

pability", code for a policy of no weapons, no vote". Listening to British ministers it is sometimes easy to forget that more EU nations are at ease with Bonn's vision of European policy than with London's. Britain's confidence that Germany has got it badly wrong over EMU seems to be feeding a more general Schadenfreude here towards Germany's European policy. The problem is not just that the Germans may be clinging to an anachronistic policy agenda but that the British seem oblivious to the case for putting an alternative stability in its place. That failure could stimulate precisely the helifire which the British profess not to want, but which Kohl and his successors have

Tessa stars in the revival of DIY



Tom Hodgkinson

RE Peps the new rock n' roll? I only ask be-cause there is a palpa-ble sense in the air that we are moving towards a look-after yourself economy, and a Personal Equity Plan, boring as it sounds, may be helpful. Government funding for universities, already cut back in favour of loans, could be about to end completely. Every week a newspaper car-ries a feature on the new insecure economy, on a work-place characterised by short-term contracts and freelanc-ing. Banks are singularly unhelpful. We are all soon going to have to face the hell of self-assessment in our tax affairs. We doubt that the Government will have enough cash to pay today's young people their pensions in 30 years. No longer, whether we like it or not, can we entrust our work and financial affairs to a third

party. Across the Atlantic, Republican presidential election candidate Steven Forbes has even proposed the idea of a flat 17 per cent tax rate, an idea that essentially admits to the notion of practically no government at all - with the attendant devastating effect on support structures such as the welfare state.

The personal-finance indus-try has been quick to cash in, so to speak, on this cultural shift. Its adverts are starting to exploit our fears of less ushioning from government and employer. There are even signs that ads are attempting to reposition the industry, as they say in marketing, or to make money management cool, as the kids might have it. Which it is, in a way. Or at least could be. Or perhaps

At the same time, younger people are beginning to realthree grand by now. building society, you'd have £1,500," Which doesn't sound bad. Not that I have a spare grand lying around.

many's great postwar at with its "stakeholding" concept. Old lefties bemoan the idea that the individuals runs the troubled subtext of who make up nations are German European policy. The being forced to take on more responsibility for their lives. at this year's Inter-Govern- argue. Rather than complain-

ourselves as dealers. This might sound as if I were de-scribing Britain as a nation of shopkeepers, but the reality is more exciting.

When you start to see your-self as a individual dealer, rather than an employee, a consumer, a union devotee or an acolyte of socialism, the world starts to look a little clearer. You feel a little more powerful. Having been charged £7.50 "management fee" and £35 something-else fee for going overdrawn for a day, I telephoned my bank. A quick rant later and the charges had been refunded. Complain! Discover your rights! Search out the information that landlords, em-ployers, financial institutions and schools would rather you

didn't have! The reality is that you can do deals with everyone. You can do deals in shops (in more civilised countries, it's known as haggling). You can do deals with your employer: less money, more time is one such popular move. After all, it might be wise to accept that we live in a capitalist econo-my, and that this is unlikely to change. Many are going to be left out. Are we heading towards a 10 per cent sorted. 90 per cent dazed-and-con-fused society?

Unions were supposed to help us. What has happened to them? How much difference does it actually make to health workers' quality of life, for example, that their union manages - at vast expense to its members - to negotiate a wage increase of a quarter of one per cent?

HE real value of unions or some version of unions — should be to provide information and legal advice to its members. By focusing all the efforts on puny wage increases, and by arro-gantly presuming to represent management, they do the working people a huge disser-vice. In today's brutal economy, a far more helpful service would be to provide advice or negotiation, so that individual members gain the confidence to do their own deals and control their own lives.

My government doesn't represent what I think about the world: why should I assume that my union should do so? Unions have a political agenda that they tastelessly assume is shared by their iembers. Not so

A solution may be nonpolitical small societies or guilds. For a low fee, a small team of people could garner relevant information on the industry for its members. They could have helplines. A newsletter covering new desonal reports of battles with clients or employers. Combine that with Peps, Tessas. pensions and mortgages and we have the possibility, funnily enough, of being free - a ing, a better way to view the nation of dealers, in control of future might be to think of our destinies.



Going overboard

As Hugo Young (above) condemns Britain's reaction to Helmut Kohl, lan Traynor and Martin Kettle explain why he clings to his high-risk strategy

pean hellfire has the German Chancellor never tires of stressing, the conti-nent is doomed to return to its ugly historical alter ego nationalism, protectionism, destructive balance of power politics, resulting in trade wars and perhaps real wars. Last weekend the hackles rose sharper than ever. The angry British response to Kohl's apocalyptic warnings about the alternatives to

of Euro-Europe spurn his vision of a federalised political union, the German Chancella. In his 14th year in power

sparked the worst verbal sparked the worst verbal he has gone is fed by a profound sense of insecurity and the German broadside is European unification has sparked the worst verbal anti-German broadside in 1990. It could get worse before | countrymen. There is an ea-When he talks about politi- dissolve the national identity cal union determining issues | and embrace "Europeanness

FLMUT Kohl's the decades ahead — as he does at every available opportunity and not just last weektunity and not just last week-end — the Chancellor means it. It is no mere rhetorical push through the federalist project to the point where it can no longer be stopped. It is his overriding aim, pursued with a mixture of fervour and

Kohl has no clear-cut successor able to command the authority and prestige that he brings to the pursuit of Euro it hard to love the euro pean policy. The fear that it Kohl's passion for it is unregerness, unique in Europe, to al union determining issues and embrace "Europeanness" | why the terms and timing for | with 34 per cent of tradition | Kohl and his successors have war and peace in Europe in | as if to escape from the bur- EMU were impracticable and ally sceptical Britons in no alternative but to confront.

ple of this phenomenon is Kohl's undeflected commitment to trading in the Deutschmark, paramount and most cherished symbol of post-war Germany, in favour of the nebulous and unloved euro. For Kohl, if not for the rigorous Bundesbank, economic and monetary union (EMU) is neither primarily an economic nor a monetary project. It is essentially a political scheme, a crucial staging post on the way to political union and a key move in realising the Kohl dream, helping to make the putative Euro-federation irreversible before he leaves office.

This is one reason why, in the present heated debate across Europe over EMU and despite the grim economic in-dices, he will not countenance tampering either with the terms or timing of the single currency. But there are others. Germans are finding it hard to love the euro. quited by two out of three voters. This opposition he blithely blames on "misunderstandings and mis-

outlined a host of reasons

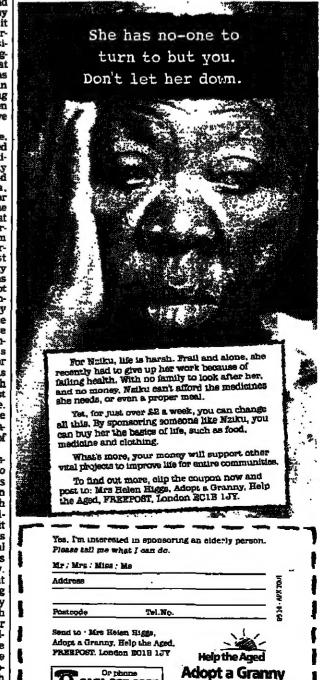
dens of being German. The called on Kohl to take the lead best concrete current examin ordering a delay. Yet for several domestic reasons, it looks extremely unlikely that Bonn will follow Hurd's ad-vice, at least in public.

The first is that the German economy confronts a deep structural crisis. Kohl's response is widely viewed as less than adequate. The fabled mark is already overvalued, hurting the country's export performance and costing it jobs — more than four million Germans are out of work. Second, in his commitment

to the euro, Kohl finds himself between a rock and a hard place. Beyond Germany, the Maastricht terms for currency convergence are prov-ing too tough for less resilient regimes, meaning that only a minority of EU members will pass the EMU test. But inside Germany, Bundesbank stringency and a public reared on sound money may well revolt if Kohl bows to pressure to relax the terms.

Whether Kohl can finesse this twin problem is the unanswered question. Despite the war of words between Bonn and London, both sides have more in common than they perceptions".

Last week Douglas Hurd, the former foreign secretary, duced virtually identical responses in both countries,



Closely observed brains

first who specialised in the pathology of psychiatric disase. He was also known for his research into boxing head injuries and Creutzfeldt-Ja-cob disease. As curator of the Corsellis Collection, which possesses more than 8,000 brains, he was in charge of ing matches being reduced the largest brain archive in from 15 to 12 rounds. They

Bruton was in many respects an archetypal East London boy made good. He never lost touch with his roots and his visits to Romford dog track provided a constant source of anecdotes which enlivened many a Neuropathological Society

After grammar school he trained at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London and began to specialise in neuropatho logy following a stint as a research registrar (1968-70) at Runwell Hospital, Essex.

R CLIVE Bruton, who has died from Brain in 1969 and the future They also worked on a thoracter attack course of his research career ough review of the relationwas set. Following a brief period at the Institute of Psy-chlatry, Bruton returned with Professor Corsellis to Run-well Hospital in 1972 as assistant neuropathologist. The two embarked on a series of neuropathological studies including The Aftermath Of Boxing (1973), which resulted in world championship boxalso started a collection of brain specimens from a wide variety of neurological and psychiatric disorders.

As a result of their eclecti-cism, diligence and long-term support from the Medical earch Council, Bruton and Corsellis began a series of studies characterised by a willingness to tackle difficult or contentious areas of neuropathology. They produced the first comprehensive docu-mentation of the punch-drunk syndrome in boxers, a sem-inal work which underpins recent epidemiological and molecular insights into the relationship between head in-

ships between pathology and prognosis in temporal lobe epilepsy (which formed the basis of Bruton's MD and became a much quoted Maudsley Monograph) and a large investigation of the neuropathological characteristics of schizophrenia.

Bruton's work on schizophrenia exemplifies his characteristic willingness to identify and tackle difficult problems. In the early 1970s chizophrenia was viewed as a functional psychiatric disorder and its roots were con-sidered to lie in the dark earth of difficult interpersonal relationships. The phrase "Schizophrenia is the phrase "Schroparena is the graveyard of neuropatho-logy" aptly summed up the expert point of view. Undaunted by this consen-sus, and buoyed by his in-sights into the relationships between temporal lobe epi-lemss, nethology and psycho-

lepsy, pathology and psycho-ses, Bruton continued to colschizophrenic patients and, together with Dr Tim Crow,

logy of this condition. Their study of rare and common local NHS trust and fellow ac-10-year study, published in psychiatric disorders an-ademics in order to guarantee the field of psychiatry; for the first time changes in brain structure in schizophrenia over two decades but after the mid-seventies only on a part-time basis as he took up fullwere documented. Subse-quent studies demonstrated his workload he had a Falquent studies demonstrated that these changes were mality in brain development. This demonstration of the or-

ganic basis of one of the most enigmatic psychiatric dis-orders laid the foundation for future research in the field and its importance is widely expensive and complex strategies had failed caused Bru-

ton much amusement. His ability to resist the pressure younger colleagues and his his approach would be vindicated, coupled with a generosity of spirit, made him appre-ciated by fledgling biological

staffan approach to life. He once explained a limp saying he had slipped off his high heels adding that he had been playing the dame at the local

Bruton was much in de-mand as a dining partner and raconteur. Discussions and disagreements were a con-stant and revolved around the HAT he had succeeded where more expensive and com-Collection was an ever-present preoccupation.

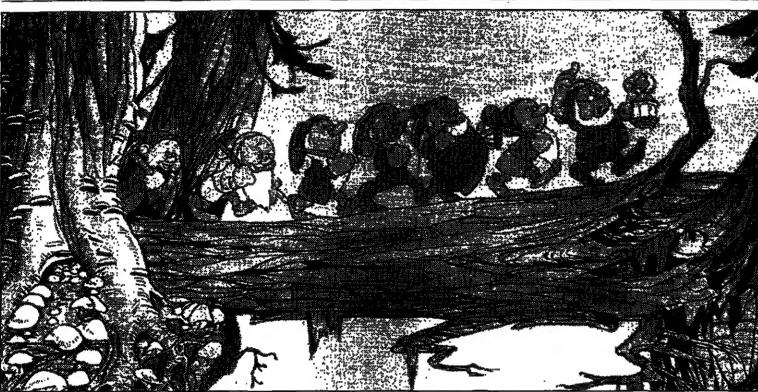
This collection named in honour of its founder has grown to be one of the largest archives of human brain tis-sue in the world and was facing an uncertain future following Professor Corsel-lis's death in 1994. Despite the ill-health, which led to his

investigated the neuropatho | His detailed and systematic | tice, Bruton liaised with his further funding, thus keeping the archive intact and safe guarding jobs in the neuropathology department. He saw his gift of the archive to future neuropathogists as one of the crowning achievements of his career. He had attracted support from the Stanley Foundation in the US and over the last year had publi-cised the archive and its community: .

and gentleman. Bruton played a huge role in exploring and establishing our understanding of the biological basis of psychiatric disease. He will be sorely missed by many of his colleagues students and friends all over his wife Anne, their children Rachel, Tim, Abi and Laura and grandson Jake.



Clive Bruton . . . helping to understand psychiatric disease



High point . . . the Seven Dwarfs' Heigh ho sequence for Disney was one of Culhane's early triumphs

Shamus Culhane

Small steps on a fantastic journey

cartoons for his Heigh ho sequence in Walt Disney's 1937 classic. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. But until the end of his life he retained a vibrant interest in the sub-Ject, enthusing quite recently about state-of-the-art comput-

crised animation. In his autobiography, Talking Animals And Other People (1986) he wrote: "I was a link with the primitive past, before sound, colour or tape. I had been permitted to live lung enough to see and use the greatest tools for artists that were ever invented. I am convinced that computer aniworks of art — beautiful beyond our most fantastic

It must have been some-thing like a fantastic dream when the six-year-old Culwhen the six-year-old Cullege went with his father covering up for an animator worker. to see Gertie The Diameter of the Diame

ILM ANIMATOR Shannosaur, made in 1909 by the monkey with a hot towel. His mus Culhane, who has died aged 87, is immore talised in the history of animated film to be shown as different studies, including part of a routine cinema programme. He never forgot this

experience. Culhane had been born in Massachussetts but moved to Manhattan as a small boy. He began drawing as a child and won awards for his pictures at high school in Harlem. After a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art he decided to become an artist himself, although after his father left

Nonetheless, he managed to get into the animated film in-dustry during its infancy. Through his best friend's brother, Walter Lantz, he got a job as an office boy for JR a job as an office boy for JR
Bray, a newspaper cartoonist
who became the first to make
animated films distributed
regularly to cinemas. In 1925,
eye, Disney's Pluto ("the essence of dog" as Culhane desence of dog" and Woody

stealing books. There was an | critus of 1495 for ordinary

his own, and he played an im-portant part in Walt Disney's early full-length cartoon features. First came Snow White and her marching dwarfs, which film critics have singled out as the most beau-tifully drawn of that period. Then came Pinocchio (1940), in which Culhane animated the fox and cat. At the same time he was also working for Disney's main rivals, Max home when Shamus was 16, and Dave Fleischer, who pro-he had to abandon his studies | duced Gulliver's Travels Town (1941). The latter, despite a score by Hoagy Carmichael and Frank Loesser, was a box-office failure and the

rothers split up.

series of shorts directed by 1980s and met him on one. Culhane in the 1940s for the occasion in his apartment hane get his first job. In a 1994 book. The 50

Greatest Cartoons As Selected By 1,000 Animation Professionals, his 1944 Barber Of Seville cartoon was chosen to il-lustrate his humour. In it, Woody the Woodpecker sings Largo Al Factotum from the Rossini opera with exagger-ated miming to the large proportion of vowels to conso-nants in the original. As head of Paramount's cartoons in 1966-67, Culhane produced the Mighty Thor series for television, and later be co-wrote and produced a seventies' series of animated television specials on Noah's Ark.

Culhane tended to see the world though a cartoonist's eyes, once memorably de-scribing President Richard Nixon's awkward physical style as "three frames out of sync." The artist himself. with his goates, beret and horn-rimmed spectacles, looked more like a Left Bank bohemian than the product of an Irish-American working class family lucky enough to be young in the early days of a wonderful medium.

rentures were developed in a lover a period in the late cartoonist pioneer Walter in New York. He was very kind and helpful to me. I saw no sign of his Irish-American temper although it often erupted over not getting correct credits for

Such was the case with Betty Boop's Bamboo Isle in 1932, when he refused to work for three days and threatened to break his contract with Max Fleischer over their rots system of crediting.

According to Culhane, Max stayed in his office most of the time; Culhane wouldn't have been sorry if Dave Fleischer had stayed there with him. In one letter to me he said: "Some idiot wrote a book. The Ten Best Animation Directors and Dave was listed! I wrote a

Dave was listed! I wrote a furious letter which was duly printed. He even got an award for life-time achievement."

At the age of 78, Culhane closed down his own animation company after 48 years in production in favour of teaching and writing (anart teaching and writing (anart). teaching and writing (apart from his autobiography he wrote an instruction man-ual entitled Animation From Script To Screen). He certainly influenced many younger animators.

Shamus Culhane, animator, born November 12, 1908; died February 2, 1996

forming. A strange ramifica-tion of this imparity is that it

remember something that is flat than something which is

move your head a quarter of

an inch, it's a whole new image and I have to learn the

image all over again . . but if it's flat, I move my head and it doesn't really change. So I

think that I was driven to

work on something that

wasn't going to change. I

guess that's why I was prob-

ably more interested in scan-ning the faces of those I know

is much easier for me to

three-dimensional. If you

Fire and flamenco

day. Born in Seville, Antonio Ruiz Soler (always known by his first name alone) greatly increased the international audience for Spanish dance; his performances were un-precedented in artistry as well

as in showmanship.
With his cousin Rosario
(Florencia Perez Padilla), he
formed a childhood partnership — he was six, she 10 — under the title Los Chavalillos Sevillance. They gave their first performance in Liège in 1928 and remained partners for the next 25 years. Antonio used to boast that he had supported his family from the age of eight. The pair finally split up, each to form a separate company, but reunited for big occasions — like seasons in

London and New York. Rosario was a fine dancer. usical, neat, fastidious, decogreat attraction, in every Argentina, Argentinita, Pilar Lopez. The balance in his performances with Rosario was very happy — her soles pro-viding graceful interludes between his bursts of astonishing pyrotechnics. In duets, she

was a pleasant, not too obtru-sive foil to his brilliance. Their first American tour was in 1940; they came to the Edinburgh Festival in 1950 and to London for the first of many times in 1951. They toured very widely. Many regretted the split with Rosa-rio the small canvas, just the pair of them, seemed right as a setting for Antonio's genius, making, as it did, next to no demands on elaborate, and su-perfluous, effects of

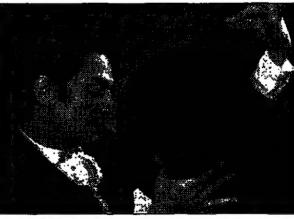
But his eye in 1962 was set on a company rather than a pas de deux, with a repertory that demonstrated his production skills. He stranged col-ourful anthologies: of local dances — his Galician suite, ratively plump. But beyond dances — his Galician suite, question Antonio was the for instance. And there were the keenly awaited, tantalisense the dominant partner. ingly infrequent, "spots" for

stamping) as the show's

hand at veritable choreography, as distinct from "arrang-ing" dances, adapting the tra-ditional, relatively limited language of Spanish classicism to the sort of dramatic purposes attained by classical ballet. But it never quite at actually inventing move-ments and anyway it was beyoud the scope of Spanish dance. His versions of the de Falla ballets, Love The Magician and The Three Cornered Hat, were jejune. (The only really good Spanish ballet remains Leonide Massine's Three Cornered Hat, made for Diaghilev).

Antonio's company, theless, was a big interna-tional success. He was a magnificent and versatile technician of his country's many forms of dance. Above all, he had the looks and the personality — handsome, fiery, buoyant, charming.

ments: to restore male su-premary to Spanish dance. In with his Zapatesdo (flamen-the preceding period the great co's virtuosity of rhythmic February 5, 1996



Unprecedented artistry ... Karsh's portrait of Antonio

Birthdays

Mike Batt, composer, arranger, 46; Rabbi Lionel Blue, broadcaster, 66; Nicholas Brett, editor, Radio Times, 46; Natalie Cole, singer, 46; Leslie Crowther, comedian, 63; John Flemming, warden, Wadham College, Oxford, 55; Zsa Zsa Gabor, actress, 77; Tom Harris, ambassador to

Korea, 51: Dr Christopher Hill, historian, 84: Gayle Hun-nicutt, actress, 58: Patrick Monee, actor, 74; Donald Mitchell, musicologist, 71; Denis Norden, scriptwriter, broadcaster, 74; Ronald Reagan, former US president, 85; Jimmy Tarbuck, come-dian, 56; Rip Torn, actor, director, 65; Fred Trueman, cricketer, 65; Keith Water-

house, playwright, 67.

the world of lingerie for

Asian leaders who hope that

Confucianism's stress on pro-priety will ward off the West's

Death Notices

in Memoriam

ARD, Sen. Died February 6

Jackdaw



Overdue

IN 1833. Guglielmo Libri was exiled [from Italy] and moved to France. There a brilliant career opened before him. In 1833, he was naturalised a Frenchman and elected a member of the Institut de France. He was appointed Assistant Professor in the Sorbonne in 1834 (full Professor in 1840). Chevalier of the Lègion d'Honneur in 1837, secre tary of a commission for the publication of a general catalogue of manuscripts in French libraries in 1842 and Professor in the Collège de France in the following year ... All this time, Libri had been buying, selling and

early incident in Italy. He had been made librarian of the Georgofili in 1825 but resigned abruptly a year later. Three hundred volumes were found to be missing. The scandal was hushed up by his family. In France... as secretary of the commis-sion to publish catalogues of manuscripts, he was given privileged access to many libraries. He worked unsupervised among the shelves, stayed after hours and had his meals brought in. He would arrive wrapped in a capacious Italian cloak, and warned the terrified librari-ans that he carried a stiletto for protection against the Carbonari. The Biblioteque de l'Observatoire allowed him to take home numerous files for study. Letters of Flamsteed and Gassendi, and 455 items from the correspondence of Hevelius, were not

returned. The aged librarian

of Carpentras was persuaded

to let Libri exchange one of

ne's Il Cortegiano and an

Grolier's copies of Castiglio-

uncut copy of the Aldine Theo-

copies of most editions. In 1847, after an unsucce ful approach to the British Museum, Libri sold his collection of 1,800 manuscripts to Bertram, fourth Earl of Ash-burnham, for £8,000. The prize piece was a seventh-century Pentateuch with 49 miniatures, stolen from Tours. In June of the same year, a major sale of "la Bibliotéque de M. L**** took place in Paris. It included a dazzling series of rare 16th century works of been stolen from the Biblioté-que Mazarine . . .

Meanwhile, rumours of Libri's fraudulent activities had begun to circulate. Bouc-ly, the Procureur du Roi, made inquiries and submit-ted a report . . . When the July Monarchy fell [Libri] was warned that the Boucly report was about to be pub-lished. He spent the night burning papers and packing 25,000 volumes for dispatch to England, where he himself fled the next day. Anthony Hobson follows the trail of a "Scientist, patriot,

scholar, journalist and thief

in his Times Literary Supplement review of The Life And Times Of Guglielmo Libri (Hil-versum), by P Alessandra Mac-cioni Ruju and Marco Mostert.

News gloss

• THE MAN WHO GAVE BIRTH

"MY MOTHER PAYS TO LOOK YOUNGER THAN ME"

WHO DOES YOUR SLEEP WITH? • WOMEN WHO ELIMINATE

THEIR EX-LOVERS

"A PROSTITUTE STOLE MY CHILD' • THE FUTURE FOR YOUR BODY Cover lines from the Pebruary issue of Marie Claire, "The magazine for women of the

Memory lapse

WHEN I had everything in the world open to me . . . I made the same painting over and over and over. When I could invent any shape, I and over. When I could use any colour, I would use the

and love and committing . same colour combinations over and over...[As a child] I had really severe learning disabilities so I wasn't going them to memory than I was probably in anything else. The portrait painter Chuck Close interviewed in Cover magazine, America's "Underto be able to take the normal route. I grew up so dyslexic I couldn't memorise anything. including faces — which is rather funny. Somebody that Uplifting I've just seen on the street is as familiar to me as some

body I used to live with. I have to keep reinforcing and seeing the face over and over and over at regular intervals whether Confucius ever con-sidered the WonderBra. But to keep it in my brain. You can see where this could be problematic but visually in-



obsession with sex. Asia's growing class of affluent ur-ban woman is eager to flaunt its sexuality. And that has created a boom market for

HISTORY does not record

the raciest of G-strings and skimpy push-up bras. The bottest market of all: stuffy Singapore..."It's namy land, with the government at ways telling you what to do." says Madelyn Lip, who pro-motes underwear in the region. "But they can't tell Under it all, women are rebel lious"...WonderBra, the brand that popularised the super push-up brassiere, next month will launch a special product line sized for the slim Asian body. "There's a strong desire to be sexy," says Dorothy Lau, a Hong Kong accountant. "People want to marry a good husband, and a push-up bra is part of the package to achieve that goal.'

This is still a limited market. Most Asian women remain shy about their

bodies. In Seoul, according to a study by Japanese under-wear manufacturer Wacoal, wear manuacturer wacoai, 82 per cent of women sleep with underpants and a bra under their nighties. Buiad-vertising evidently can evode such conservatism. The study also suggests a direct rebition-ship between the amount of racy ads and the dissatisac-tion that can lead womer to try to improve on nature In Tokyo, where 84 per centof women said they are uniappy with their bodies, 48 per sent of those polled said they wen more than four girdles. In Beijing, exposed to Western advertising for only a few years, 74 per cent of the women said they're happy with their bodies. Dorinda Elliott looks at Asia's discreet objects of desire for

Jackdaw wants your jewis. jackdaw@guardian.co.u; fax 0171-713 4366: Jackdao The Guardian, 119 Farrigdon Road, London EC1R 3ER

Dan Glaister

grals try to ma

und's end

shell

Workers

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Land's end for Shell North Sea oil platform

SHELL announced yes-terday that it would dis-mantle its Leman BK gas platform on land rather than dispose of the installation in the North Sea, writes

The plans - the first approved by the Government since the Brent Spar controversy — involve partially dismantling and shipping the 6,000-tonne steel platform ashore from its

Shell said the Leman platform was simpler to decom-mission, smaller, and in shallower water than Brent Spar. It will put the £10 million contract out to tender shortly, with five UK firms front-runners to win the business. Green-peace welcomed the decision to opt for onshore

Energy minister Tim Eg-gar said the Government would continue to review applications for decommis sioning case by case. PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW LEATHAM



Fokker rescue link hits BAe

HARES in British Aerospace fell sharply yesterday possible rescuer for ailing Dutch plane maker

BAe confirmed that it had held talks alongside its part-ners in the regional jet sales and marketing venture Aero International (Regional).

It is unclear, however, whether the AIR partners, which also include France's Aerospatiale and Italy's Alenia, are among the five front-unners with which Fokker says it is in serious talks about a rescue bid with its ad-

News of a possible tie-up be-tween BAe and Fokker, which had to seek protection from its creditors last month, was enough to send the British company's share price down

BAe was giving little away yesterday. A spokesman for politics bite

the group said: "We are moni-toring the situation. There have been contacts. We need to know what is going on in the regional aircraft market." Aerospatiale was equally non-committal. A spokeswoman said: "The partners in AIR have an interest in the

studying it but no decisions have been made yet." A Fokker spokesman would confirm only that the South Korean company, Samsung, was one of the five "serious"

Fokker situation. We are

contenders. He refused to comment on whether or not BAs or Aerospatiale Were among the leading group.

British Airways profit rise fails to cheer City as weather and French

However, Fokker is clearly formal notices of possible job | holder, Daimler-Benz, refused | the future of the company | to provide further financial | than he had been a week ago ogether as a single aircraft | people and yesterday Baron | support for the lossmaking "One week ago we were not in keen to keep the company together as a single aircraft manufacturing entity rather than seeing itself broken up into what one executive described yesterday as "bits and piaces". That might prove dif-ficult if BAs and Aerospatiale, which make rival products, were to become involved in a rescue operation.

Another possible suitor for Fokker is the Canadian com-pany Bombardier, the owner of Belfast-based Short Brothers, where hundreds of obs could be lost if Fokker

RITISH Airways an-Dnounced a 30 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the last three months of 1995 yester-

pectations, partly because of adverse conditions in January, writes Ion King. Despite an insistence by the chairman, Sir Colin Marshall, that prospects remained "favourable", analysts

day but failed to meet City ex-

into the balance last month when its controlling sharemarked down their full-year profit forecasts and the share price fell 19p to 502p. BA said passenger figures and for ward bookings made in January were disappointing due to worse-than-usual weather. Industrial unrest in France

ern Ireland Office, held talks

over the situation at Fokker

with Dutch officials in the

Bombardier said yesterday

it had agreed to hold talks with Fokker, but it did not make clear whether the nego-

tiations were confined to

Short's role as a supplier to the Dutch group or whether

the Canadian group was in-terested in Fulder itself.

Fokker's future was thrown

also contributed to January's poor performance, with Japanese tourist traffic to Europe nine-month profits to a record £534 million, up 24.5 per cent. while BA also broke records the government shut-down in the United States and "negafor passengers carried and percentage of seats sold. Sir Colin said: "Business

Dutch company. That forced Fokker to apply

to the courts for protection

from its creditors and the

Dutch government, which remains a shareholder, threw

the company a £146 million lifeline through a combina-tion of loans and advance pay-

ments on aircraft orders

which are providing the com-pany with the funds to keep

production running for sev

eral weeks. Fokker chairman Ben van

Schaik said yesterday that he which was more optimistic about role".

ing -- a record profit for the year is anticipated and we expect to continue our programme of performance

talks and we didn't even have

the bridge financing and that

Daimler-Benz chairman

with bottom-line responsi-

bility". The current struc-ture, he said, was one in

sharply in recent weeks Securities said BA's probl clear tests in the Pacific had prospects remain encouragwere largely short-term.

City analysis were less optimistic, however, warning that BA's costs had risen But Mike Powell of NatWest

Workers of world warn |BAT covered up nicotine danger, says ex-employee

Larry Elliott in Davos

immeth Michaela

Sale (************

EADERS of the world's trade unions pledged Eyesterday to fight any attempts to drive down workers' living standards and gramed business of an imminent public backlash against the unemployment and in-equality caused by globalisa-

Stressing the need to examine the social impact of eco-nomic liberalisation, unions made it clear that they rejected calls by Bundesbank president Hans Tietmeyer and Bank of France president Jean-Claude Trichet for greater labour market flexibility in Europe as one sided.

"We anticipate a very diffi-cult time if an attempt is made to reduce the living standards of employees," said Philip Jennings, general secretary of FIET, which represent the properties of the

business of backlash

Mr Jennings was leading a group of union leaders to the World Economic Forum in nessmen and politicians about the plight of the 750 million people around the world who were unemployed or

"You can't leave the desti-nies of working people in the hands of a few unelected cantral bankers. I fear there will be a backlash if people are going to get lower wages and higher unemployment as part of this process."

Mr Jennings added that the reaction against "social Dar-

winism" could take the form of increased nationalism, xenophobia or greater protec

tionism.
The growing strength of un-

sents 450 unions from 120 | vital that minimum standards were used as the basis of a relationship between employers and workers.

> pean workers. "If you take away the ability of a country ment in their currency to improve competitiveness that will mean wage earners have to take the flak. There has to be a social project to run alongside monetary union." Bill Jordan, general secre-tary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, said the 127 million members of his organisation were being affected by the massive problems of "world poverty, unemployment and social exclusion" in a way that was unacceptable.

Both Mr Jordan and Mr Jennings said organised labour had proved its willingness to promote employment citing the part played by Ger-man unions in the recent job creation package.

Merk Tran in New York and Peoline Springett

Bat industries, the tobacco and financial services conglomerate, has been accused by a former employee on prime-time US television of covering up the addictive nature of nicotine. The allegation, heard by millions of viewers, is the latst assault on the credibility of the tobacco industry. It wa made on the CBS programme 60 Minutes by Jeffrey Wi-gand, former research director at the BAT subsidiary Brown & Williamson.

Michael Moore, an attor ney-general for Mississippi told the programme that Mr Wigand was planning to tes-tify in a lawsuit that the com-pany knew for decades that tobacco was addictive. Mr Wigand is the most important tobacco official to have A BAT spokesman said the stages. "We don't expect it to | coumerin, a carcinogenic and | portray Mr Wigand as a liar.

that BAT was suing Mr Wigand in a separate lawsuit, alleging "fraud, theft and breach of contract, when we believe the full story about him will emerge. We reckon that he will not turn out to be a credible witness and we look forward to cross-examin-

CBS backed down three months ago from airing the Wigand interview amid fears of a lawsuit. Mr Wigand alcigarette was dropped for fear t would clearly expose every other product as unsafe Mr Wigand also said that B&W executives had long been aware that nicotine was addictive and that Thomas Sandefur, chairman and chief executive officer, perjured himself in congressional testimony when he denied this. Mr Wigand, who said he had received death threats. also alleged that B&W did not

pipe tobacco because remov-ing it "would hurt sales", Mr removed coumarin.

seeking to force tobacco companies to pay for the cost of smoking-related issues. Mr Moore said that Mr Wigand's testimony was "going to be devastating to the tobacco in lastry. They [tobacco executives] have perpetrated the biggest fraud to the American public in history. They have lied for years and years and made a profit."

The states of Minnesota and Florida are also suing the in-dustry for reimbursements, and Mr Wigand is the key wit-ness in all three state suits. Mr Wigand, who has a doc-torate in biochemistry and endocrinology, was head of B&W research from January 1989 until March 1993. 60 Minutes included denial:

BASEBALL CAP PITS... BASELLA

itors that Brazil is more The consensus in the London market last night suggested the "rogue trader" story to be, at most, a wild

We're ready for a Ugandan solution



Edited by Mark Milner

AST week the government in the Seychelles announced a novel way Anybody prepared to stash away \$10 million (£6.5 million) on the sun-kissed island in the Indian Ocean would be exempt from prosecution, no questions asked.

Predictably, this has led to uproar in the world business community, and rightly so. But it illustrates what most of the delegates at the World Economic Forum know only too well — that globalisation has spawned an orgy of cor-

ruption. On one panel at Davos, a Brazilian judge and a Russian businessman swapped stories of assassination bids, while the joke among Swiss policemen is that criminals no longer rob banks, they own them. They point out that the slopes of St Moritz are now the playground of the Russian mana rather than minor Brit-

ish royals. Chairing a panel on corrupion, Jules Kroll, chairman of the eponymous personal security firm, said it was all very Juergen Schrempp said yes-terday that Airbus Industrie, the big jet consortium, made up of Daimler-Benz Aerowell having consciousness raising sessions, but direct action was now needed. space, BAs, Aerospatiale and Casa, needs a "common" identity and a "management

He noted that the desire for greater co-operation across borders was growing, and that rules were wildly different. This may be more diffi-cult than he thinks, since it is not only small islands but banks in developed countries that are prepared to turn a blind eye to illegality in these times competition.

Nor is it easy in the current climate to see his solution to do business but not with the maffa - as anything more than wishful thinking.

But two things could be done. First, far more resources should be poured into policing in an attempt at a co-ordinated clean-up before it is too late. The American system, where a share of the proceeds from anti-drug smuggling operations go straight to the enforcement wing rather than into government coffers, should be more widespread. Second, the West should seize the offer from Uganda that debt forgiveness should be linked to a 20-year audit of the government books. In a world where incentive structures are every-thing, that would be the best possible reason to stay clean.

Fokker fallout

S FOKKER plays the Asick man of Europe's aircraft industry, the question is whether, if British Aerospace is to play a role in the unfolding crisis, it should be that of the Dutch company's doctor or its heir. On the

face of it the latter role looks the more attractive. Cer-tainly, if Fokker were to fold, it would remove a formidable competitor from the field. By contrast, the news from Sin-gapore yesterday that BAe might get involved in the rescue operation was enough to cast a cloud over the share

price.
Yet BAe may have a vested interest in a Fokker survival flight plan for both tactical

and strategic reasons.

At the tactical level, a Fokker collapse would also knock the bottom out of the regional jet market. That might seen odd. The removal of a manufacturer does not normally depress the market for the sort of products it supplied. Many regional jetliners, however, are not bought outright but are operated on short leases. If Fokker went under its sucrenew such leases on fire sale terms, with a consequent impact on the rest of the market.
At the strategic level, the calculations are more complex, but the likelihood must be that Fokker will survive in lack of suitors -- on the com-pany's own count, five rated as serious and a rather larger number as interested parties — and, assuming a deal is done, it will be in BAe's interest that an eventual Fokker rescuer will not prove to be a stumbling block towards a necessary restructuring among Europe's regional jetiner manufacturers

The future's digital

HERE is an element of

catch-up in yesterday's decision by Cellnet to cut the price of calls, Traditional rival Vodstone has already announced its own package and both are trying to close the gap on Oranga. The ques-tion for Celinst and Vodafone is how far they can go along face a technical constraint. Both have big analogue net-works which take up more space on the radio spectrum than the digital alternative. Given that all mobile tale phone companies have a limited spectrum allotment, their acope for increasing custon ers is consequently curtailed compared with their smaller but all-digital rivals, Orange and Mercury One-2-One. A limit on expansion of the cus-

the scope for price cuts.

The trick that Vocalone and Cellnet have to pull off is to woo existing customers away from the analogue system to the technologically more advanced digital system, even though equipment for the latter is more expensive. Both Cellnet and Voda phone already have digital systems, but to achieve a sigrificant switch in the balance between analogue and digital would mean scaling back the analogue network long before it had reached the end of its useful life. Timing will be

everything.
Still they can always ask
Prince Philip to help with the
advertising. One of digital's
greatest strengths is the security it offers from electronic

850 jobs go as Amstrad and Scottish Widows wield axe

Pauline Springett and Tony May

ORE than 800 job losses were announced last Widows and computer group Scottish Widows is axing

700 jobs over the next year as part of a streamlining and centralisation operation. A spokesman said the move was triggered by the increasing competitiveness of the life as-surance industry. Between 500 and 600 jobs will go at the company's Edinburgh head office, where there are presently 2,200 staff.

Scottish Widows said it hoped job losses could be achieved by retirement, rou- their core skills will flourish tine departures and a voluntary redundancy scheme. The company also plans to close its processing offices in | but substantial redundancies Birmingham, Bristol, Croy- are inevitable."

be transferred to Edinburgh. MSF, the union for skilled office workers, said it was concerned that Scotland could lose a huge number of jobs in financial services. It will be seeking an urgent meeting with Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland. Meanwhile, Amstrad is to cut 150 jobs in Britain and some staff at its European op-

don, Leeds, London and Man-

ster with the compulsory loss of 100 lobs. The work will

erations as part of a reorganisation of its unprofitable con-sumer electronics division. Alan Sugar, chairman of the group, said: "The market trend in consumer electronics means only lean organisations who concentrate on Where possible, UK staff will be offered suitable alternative employment within the group

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS France 7.52

Australia 1.965 Austria 15.30 Belgium 45.00 Canada 2.05 Germany 2.20 Greece 370.00 Сургиз 0.7075

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Dan Athlesson and Jan Rocha in Sao Paulo

DUMOURS that a Nick Leeson-style dealer, based in Brazil, has been responsible for a surge in gold prices have ternational decision-makers at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Suggestions that a cen-tral-bank trader in South America has found himself short of bullion have been mas, but recent events have added force to the gossip. in New York, bullion dealers are reported to some \$340 (2226) a Troy feet of holding down world story to be, at have abandoned their habit ounce before Christmas to prices and reassuring cred-exaggeration.

of secrecy and are compar- | \$414.5 | last night have | ng notes, convinced the official figures for gold ealings do not add up. One London broker said: The whole thing remains sbrouded in secrecy and is either a potential fireball

or a damp squib." Joubert Furtado, a senior Braullian central bank offi-cial, said: "The rumours are laughable. We are not preoccupied by the recent price movements." Until now, the remour

that a Latin American central bank — finding itself short of gold to fill speculative positions — has been behind the price surge from

market professionals. But market talk has con-

ment on Thursday that Brazil's state-owned company, Vale do Rio Doce, had discovered what would be the biggest gold mine in South America, may fuel gossip.

Normally this would be seen as simple goods news, but the timing of the announcement will cause sus-picion should Banco Central, the reserve bank, or state-owned Banco do Braall, prove to be short of bullion. The discovery would have the welcome ef-



Consumers to enjoy biggest rate reductions ever seen in cellular phone industry ● Savings of up to 30pc due in March

Cellnet price war to squash Orange

Cholas Barnister **Fechnology Editor**

mobile phone market moved into a new phase yester-day when Cellnet, the market leader with more than 2.3 million customers. announced price cuts aimed ange in the digital market.

Cellnet, 60 per cent owned by British Telecom, said it was planning the largest price reductions seen in the cellular industry — with sav-

ings of up to 30 per cent.

The new prices, due to come into effect at the beginning of March, bring Cellnet's charges in line with those of Vedecome its main competi-Vodafone, its main competitor, which is already in the process of introducing clearer, can be used in many

are seeking to close the price gap with Orange, the all-digi-tal operator which has signed up more than 400,000 customers since starting operations in April 1994.

Orange, due to be listed on the Stock Exchange in March with an expected valuation of £2.7 billion, has been winning more digital customers in its network area than its larger rivals mainly because it charges less for calls.
This success has been achieved even though it has not completed its network, it

charges more for its handsets, and it operates the less popular PCN mobile standard. Cellnet's digital services tomers, while its older ana logue services have over

been marked down if the divi-dend had been cut, but the company would have won

respect for dealing with the issue directly. But Lord Han-son is a proud man, and

wouldn't have wanted to let his small shareholders down."

only be listed in New York — is excluded. The extra debt imposed by a special dividend would make this harder still. Hanson's attraction in the

dividend or not.

Hanson

Both Cellnet and Vodafone | not be intercepted by eavesdroppers. However, handsets tend to cost more and call charges are usually higher than analogue ones. Celinet, which is not chang-

ing basic monthly charges for its four services, is offering customers of three of the sercustomers of three of the services a new option to buy a fixed amount of airtime for an extra monthly payment. Customers paying between £2.12 to the services and that compete on price alone? Countries and who assumed the compete on price alone? Countries and assumed the exira monthly payment. Customers paying between £2.12 and £12.50 a month more, excluding VAT, will get airtime worth between £5.53 and £17.50 a month.

It is lopping 5p a minute off call charges for its digital ser-vice for consumers, leaving rates at 30p a minute for peak calls and 10p for offpeak calls. Peak calls on its digital service for business or heavy users are coming down from 25p to 20p a minute, with the off-peak period being ex-

try trend by introducing per second charging for digital. Howard Ford, Cellnet's managing director, said yes-terday's announcement was "bad news for our competitors who assumed they could

want to get more subscribers to switch from analogue to digital in order to free capacity on their allotted radio spectrum.

A Celinet spokesman, who claimed the group still had

adequate capacity, admitted that it could replace every analogue subscriber with four digital customers. He added that the group had lob bied the Government for extra spectrum to meet long-

BT forces Oftel to back down on redundancy cost

BRITISH Telecom has forced Don Crnick-shank, the director the money which other op-erators pay BT for carrying general of Oftel, to back down from his attempt to prevent competitors having to contribute to the cost of the former state-owned monopoly's massive redun-dancy programme, writes Nicholas Bannimer.

month BT's rivals should not have to pay part of BT's

portion of the redundancy costs from the interconnec-

redundancy costs together with the expense of run-ning the chairman's office had been allowed. He added that BT was entitled to fully allocate these costs under the terms of its

their calls over its network. He also felt that the cost Mercury, BT's main UK
rival. said that it was
shocked by Mr Cruickshank's decision. Peter
Howell-Davies, Mercury's
chief executive, said: "I'm
appalled that Oftel should
feel BT deserves special
treatment as competition is
a fact of life for most
operators. of the BT chairman's office. vacant property, and pub-licity campaigns to win back customers should not be included in the calculation of interconnect But in his ruling yester-day, Mr Cruickshank said redundancy costs through that he had only ruled out a operators

"Indeed, many have used redundancy to improve tion calculation. Also excluded were the cost of short-term investments.

A Oftel spokesman said that BT had provided a lot more information, and as a result two-thirds of its customers and competitors. their efficiency and reduce

tors."
He pointed out that BT had admitted in 1992 that its voluntary redundancy programme had been pit-ched higher than necessary

leave the company. Oftel said that it had disallowed a third of BT's redundancy costs because they were over the figure which the group was con-tractually obliged to pay. It added that the exclusions, including publicity expenses, would reduce in-land conveyance charges by almost 10 per cent.

Hanson pays a high price for past excesses

OUTLOOK/ Ian King on troubles facing the £10bn conglomerate's demerger

RINKERS are only too familiar with the scenario. After a heavy session the night before, the morning after is accompanied by a hangover, which usually takes longer to shake off than the original binge did.
It is a sensation being suf-

fered by the noble Lord Hanson. Not 48 hours after an-nouncing that his £11 billion business empire was break-ing up, sending the shares racing. City analysts were reaching for the aspirins.

They pruned £1 billion from Hanson's market value, prompting an emergency tele-conference for bond holders on Friday, along with weekwas planning a £800 million special dividend pay-out.

Although Hanson would only admit yesterday that a special dividend has been dis-cussed, the fact that it is even being considered shows the tremendous problems associated with selling the idea of a demerger to shareholders.

cused on dividends, and, in recent years especially, it has given the impression that it would rather do anything even cut its cherished contribution to the Conservative Party — than cut the pay-out. While not yet a tried-and-tested formula, special divi-

dends have had their sucess in the past. In recent months several regional electricity companies, including Mid-lands and Northern, have used the tactic to ward off potential predators. Granada used the special dividend successfully. as part of its £3.9 billion assault on Forte, while other companies flush with cash have pondered the idea before settling on a share buy-back.

Hanson is considering a special dividend to appeal to one key group of shareholders in particular — the income funds, who have previously beld the stock because of its relatively high yield, and who were said to be fuming at the way the demerger announce-ment was handled.

Some income funds were al-ready considering baling out, ready considering baling out, miffed at comments made by Lord Hanson last November, in which he ruled out increasing the dividend. In fact, several analysts said at the time that given Hanson's debt all along — tough it out.

Dalgety profits a dog's dinner

ALGETY'S profits fell by more than a fifth to £47.4 million in the first half of the year as the group struggled to inte-grate the Felix and Fido pet food brands bought a year ago from Quaker for £442 million. Chief executive Richard

Clothier said a key factor for the downturn was a drop in sales at Spillers, Daigety's old UK pet food business.

Yet even a special dividend, which by definition is a oneoff, is unlikely to be the spoonful of sugar that helps the medicine go down.

Lord Hanson has promised that the foundament of the special content of the special dividend of the special content that the four demerged companies will pay dividends ap-propriate to their sector, but from a shift in the UK pet food market, especially in dog food, which has seen a the four's combined dividends are unlikely to equal the present Hanson pay-out, and certainly not if the Chemstronger-than-expected move towards "chunk" foods, which Quaker already produces, away from the paté-style products which Spillers makes. icals company - which will

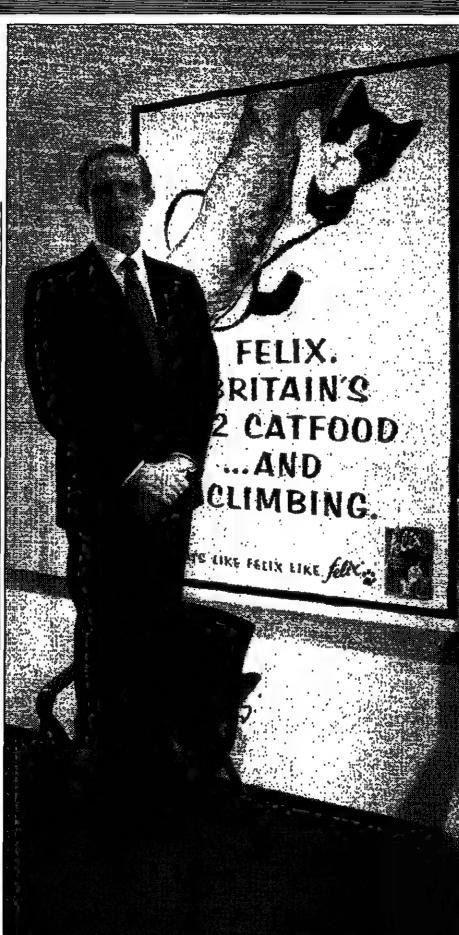
This has been hastened by a rise in raw materials fected paté-style brands. usually high wheat prices — up 10 per cent in Decem-ber — had cut margins, but the company was already pushing those cost rises through to the consumer.

He predicted that Europeans, who mostly feed their pets with food they prepare themselves, will follow the lead of US and British pet owners who increasingly turn to prepared food in cans and bags.

The group made a charge of £30 million for reorga-nising its pet food business and £10 million for property revaluations, offset by a gain of £62 million from the sale of its consumer foods unit.

market has recently been solely due to its high yield, which, even on last night's In the City, analysis cut their forecasts for full-year profits from about £132 million to about share price, down 2!4p at 192'-p, was 7.5 per cent. The City knows Hanson's demerger plans are a divi-dend cut by the back door, £125 million. Having sold its consumer foods business, Dalgety is now focused on three and it does not like it, special

What may save the day are hopes of a bidder emerging businesses: pet food, food ingredients and animal feed and pig breeding. In September It sold its for one or more of the four to Campbell Soup for £58.6 million, and a month later sold its Golden Wonder snacks division for



News in brief

Clinton submits slimline budget

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday sent a highly abbreviated budget to Congress projecting 2.2 per cent real gross domestic product growth in 1997 and 3.3 per cent in 1996. Instead of the usual 2.000 pages, yesterday's document was a skimpy 20 pages because of the budget deadlock.

The bare-bones budget was almost identical to the offer Mr Clinton put on the table in January. The \$1.64 trillion budget

projects the 1997 deficit reaching \$160.6 billion, up slightly from this year's estimated \$154.4 billion. A fuller budget plan will be presented next month. — Mark Tran in New York

Bank notes slight rise in cash

THE QUANTITY of cash in circulation graw only slowly last THE QUANTITY of cash in circulation graw only slowly last month, damping hopes of an imminent retail recovery which had been fuelled by recent signs that consumer confidence was improving. The Bank of England said yesterday that growth of notes and coin in circulation fell back to 0.3 per cent in January, from 0.5 per cent fine previous month. The data, used as a guide to consumer activity, showed the seasonally adjusted annual rate dropping to 5.7 per cent from December's 5.9 per cent.

Combined with severals covernment data also will labed use.

Combined with separate government data also published yesterday, showing bousing starts fell in 1995 by 15 per cent to 199,700 against 199,000 in 1994, the money supply figures dented hopes of imminent sconomic improvement. — Sarah Ryle

Kinnock sticks by Iberia

EUROPEAN transport commissioner Neil Kinnock yesterday efended his decision to approve a £440 million state handout to Spanish airline Iberia, saying the move was legally sound. Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, has condemned the decision as countering efforts to establish fair competition in the skies.

Mr Kinnock said he hoped Iberia's would be the last big subsidy to a state owned sirline. — Keth Harper

United cuts bills for elderly

INITED Litilities, the company formed from the merser of the North-west's regional electricity company Norweb and North West Water, is reducing bills by £10 each for 100,000 pensioners

who heat their homes with off-peak electricity.

The heating bills reduction, announced yesterday, follows a £6.50 "efficiency rebate" to be paid annually for five years by North West Water. — Martyn Haisail

Germans buy Grace's dialysis

WR Grace, the American conglomerate, yesterday announced it is selling its kidney dialysis business to Germany's Fresenius in a deal worth \$3.2 billion. If the purchase is completed, Fresenius is likely to have sales of \$3.5 billion in 1996 and will be one of the world's largest dialysis companies. — Mark Tran in New York

Sears sells shoe stores

SHEFFIELD businessman Stephen Hinchliffe yesterday announced his retail group Facia is buying 134 Saxone and Curtess

shoe snops from sears.

Sears said the latest restructuring of British Shoe Corporation, which controls its retail chains, would involve 90 redundancies from the Leicester headquarters followed by a maximum 200 further redundancies from the group's distribution business over

Farnell seeks bid backing

HOWARD Poulson, chief executive of Yorkshire-based electronic components company Farnell, has embarised on an intensive round of meetings with the company's institutional investors to try to persuade them to back its proposed £1.85 billion takeover of US rival Premier Electronics.

The bid is considered audacious by the City because Farnell is much smaller than Premier. Some of Farnell's insitutional share-holders have expressed fears that the deal would dilute earnings for many years. — Pauline Springett

DELIVERED FRESH DAILY DOOR TO DOOR



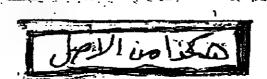
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ible Tennis English Open Lat

New Tot lavour W

Popplewell clear to tackle Quins

WICKENHAM surthe Irish international prop Nick Popplewell the go-ahead to play against them for Newcastle Gosforth in Saturday's rearranged fifth-round Pilkington Cup

Tony Hallett, the RFU sec Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, declared Popplewell eligible to play his first competitive game at Kingston Park on the ground that his previous registration with Wasps rendered his nationality irrelevant to a move between English clubs.

Last week's surprise edict by the International Board that a 180-dzy residency

by the International Board that a 180-day residency period must be served by any player switching to a club in

been living in Dublin this sea-son. The RFU, however, says the Irishman is bound only by prised Harlequins its own 120-day qualification yesterday by giving period which he has now served, having registered for Newcastle last October. In effect Twickenham is

treating Popplewell as an honorary Englishman, defining his status on the basis of his club affiliations since the start of this season.

Hallett refers to IB regula-tion 9 (section 4), which al-lows for an "open gangway between unions" where those unions agree to reduce or waive the 180-day residency period. So the Scottish inter-nationals Gary Aymattenne nationals Gary Armstrong and Doddie Weir should soon be eligible for Newcastle, provided the Scottish RU raises period must be served by any no objection. Armstrong is explayer switching to a club in another union raised doubts about Popplewell's eligibility remain in Scotland, unlike

Minister urged to refine Bosman law with European counterparts

ABOUR's Tom Pendry Labour MEP for Midlands will urge the Minister of West, is organising cross-port lain Sproat today to party support in the European Parliament for a com-Sport lain Sproat today to call a conference of European Union sports minis-ters to establish a common line on the Bosman ruling,

writes John Duncan. We have more to lose in said the shadow sports minister. "We should take a lead in getting Europe's sports ministers together to meet the EU commis-

agreement." The relevant commission ers are Padraig Flynn, who oversees Article 48 (free movement), and Karel van Miert, who deals with

Table Tennis

HIS year's English Open

event of the world's first pro-fessional tour, organised by

Tennis Federation and with \$250,000 (£185,000) prize-money for the finals at the

That prospect is almost cer-

tain to draw the world's top players to Kettering Arena from April 3-3, making this

Open the best in the event's

75-year history and the strongest tournament in Britain

since the 1977 world champi-

end of this year.

promise interpretation of

the Bosman ruling. Pendry will also discuss the possibility of amending European law to protect football's transfer system and foreigner rules. "We could introduce a specific sports clause into the renegotiated European treaty at this year's inter-government conference," he

"This is supported by Uefa and the FA but the Government has so far resisted the idea because they say it would lead to Article 85 (competition). further government and EU Simon Murphy, the interference in sport."

English Open launches world pro tour

outstanding open tournament in the world. Its own prize-

money of about £20,000 will be

a record for the event, and al-though this will provide rela-tively modest rewards com-

some leading players, the de-sire to qualify for the lucra-tive finals should bring them

The presence of Chinese

players, among them the men's and women's world

singles champions, will be en-couraged by the fact that the

first finals are almost certain

to be held in China, possibly

in Tianjin.

The FTTF is talking with sion coverage.

to Kettering.

for Newcastle, because he has | Weir who plans to live on Hallett believes EU amploy

ment law would prevent any ment law would prevent any European union from imposing the 180-day quarantine on a professional player switching clubs between unions. The IB regulation was intended primarily to apply to the movement of players between the Pacific Islands and New Zeeland

Nevertheless the RFU remains concerned about too many Celts and Frenchmen displacing English players their frenchmen displaces make in their from first-class rugby in their own country; a quota system may be in prospect.

Meanwhile the Welsh

Meanwhile the Weish Rugby Union is likely to take a tough line to maintain the strength of its club competitions by insisting on the 180-day rule for players who want to move to English clubs. Last week Vernon Pugh, the Welsh chairman of the IB, insisted that the 180-day rule would be that the 180-day rule would be enforced in Europe as well as the southern hemisphere.

The WRU's resolve is likely to be tested by Robert How-ley's proposed move from Bridgend to Saracens at the end of this season. The scrum-half made an impressive debut for Wales on Saturday and his densertors seated by a and his departure would be a blow to WRU plans to engage its leading players to develop the game in the principality. Saraceus may also suffer a hitch in bringing the Austra-lian fly-half Michael Lynagh

from the Italian club Treviso to Southgate to take up a three-year contract as player-coach. Though he is under-stood to be no longer under contract to the Australian RFU, he will not want to kick his heels in London for 180 days. Hallett said the RFU would have to consider several factors vis-à-vis Lynagh, including the question of whether he held an Australian or Italian passenger. lian or Italian passport.

the International Manage-

finals - will have to wait

until next year. The English Table Tennis

Association is still looking for a suitable sponsorship deal

for the Open, and its bargain-ing position may have been, reduced slightly by the fact that the tournament will coin-cide with the Boat Race, limit-

ing opportunities for televi-



Ready to return . . . once-troubled Jennifer Capriati 'is happier and much wiser now'

Capriati launches second comeback attempt in Paris

possession of marijuana.

David Irvine

PARIS, where as a 14-year-old in 1990 she became the youngest player to reach the semi-finals of a Grand Slam event, is the setting for Jennifer Capriati's second attempted comeback to the ment Group about the promo-tion and sponsorship of the tour, although it is likely that any sponsorship deal will, for women's tour. Her first, in Philadelphia in November 1994, lasted only one now, cover only the finals. Umbrella sponsorship for the tour — possibly comprising

natch.

Her successful applicaeight tournaments before the next week's \$450,000 (£300,000) Paris indoor event, where injury pre-vents Steffi Graf defending her title, surprised even WTA Tour officials — "we know nothing about it" in spite of the rumours in Australia recently that the Olympic champion was contemplating a return.

A tournament official said

yesterday that though the

19-year-old American had lian Open and again disap-not played competitively for peared from view. 14 months, "she says she is

now ready physically and mentally after a long prepa-ration in Florida." Capriati, who was ranked sixth in the world at three different periods from 1991 to 1993 and who beat Graf for Olympic gold in Barce-lona in 1992, left the game after losing in the first round of the 1993 US Open. In December that year she was arrested for alleg-edly stealing a ring, a charge dismissed in a family court, and five months later was arrested in a Flor-

ida motel and charged with After undergoing psychlatric treatment and drug rehabilitation she attempted to resume her

September stories of Ca-priati being "in no fit state to play tennis" were denied by her agent, Barbara Perry of IMG, who said she was both fit and happy. "She has learned an awful lot in the last two years and is a happier person now, and certainly much wiser. If she does come back it will be only when she's

at Boca Raton, the 14-year old Capriati reached the final. When she left the tour in 1993 she had won £1 million in prize-money. Britain's Tim Henman

has moved up six places to 79th - his best position vet - in the ATP rankings after his semi-final finish in Shanghai last week. Greg Rusedski, the highest-

Christie ruled out until the great outdoors

Stephen Bierley

RITAIN's Olympic sprint champion Lin-ford Christie finds his indoor season written off vir-tually before it began.

Christie, a late entrant at the national indoor championships in Birmingham last timely stop in the 60 metres final on Saturday afternoon, victim of a strained adductor muscle, and yesterday it was announced that he will not compete, as scheduled, in this national or in the Great Britain v France match in Glasgow at the end of the month. Indeed, if he retires at the end of this season the smat-

tering of folk in the National Indoor Arena will have been walk the boards. Pantomime. of course, cannot be ruled out in the future. Such was Christie's remark-

able recovery after the world championship finals in Gothenburg last summer when, after finishing sixth, he col-lapsed on the track, that speculation as to his future must remain circumspect. Dono-van Bailey, the world cham-pion, has already cast doubts lieved Christie, despite pro-tracted denials, would defend his title in Atlanta.

Three athletes who will definitely be in Atlanta, assuming they are fit, are Peter Whitehead, Richard Nerur-kar and Liz McColgan, who were named yesterday for the Olympic marathons. The two men, currently carrying injuries, must show their fitness by competing in a half-mara-thon by the end of May.

Whitehead was fourth at the world championships in Gothenburg; Nerurkar, the former World Cup winner, vas seventh. McColgan, after a chronic injury, returned to November and came seventh. eration her past record and her ability to compete well in bot, humid conditions.

The remaining three name will be announced at the end of April, after this year's London Marathon. Paul Evans and Eamonn Martin yesterday expressed disappointment that the selectors had left only one place open for the men. Steve Brace's recent second place at the Houston Marathon in 2hr 10min 35sec brought him close to the third spot during Saturday's de-bate. The conditions were huon the true nature of the Brit-on's injury in Sweden. The Canadian also said he be-selection remain high.

Lister gives Parsons backing to high jump on to the board

OHN LISTER, who is not ing. There is a professional financial department in the fed-British Athletic Federation's treasurer, yesterday threw his weight behind the international high jumper Geoff Parsons as his successor, ing. It's more a strategic position, and in one fell swoon writes Stephen Bierley. Par-sons will stand against Mar-Counties treasurer, for the vacant treasurer's post at next

Lister said he had decided to get out after "becoming weary of all the internal bick ering, backbiting and aggra-vation that exists in athletics and is doing so much damage to its future. The greatest sport is the current dialogue between the federation and the international athletes. It is one of the most important things to have happened to

said it was vital that the pro-fessional athletes had a close involvement in the top man-agement. He praised the work of Roger Black and Parsons, who were instrumental in pulling Britain's international athletes together last year into a loosely knit but increasingly influential association. "The proposal for Geoff to take my place is very interest-

tion, and in one fell swoop that vital link between the athletes and the federation could be made."

Lister, as a newly elected council member of the Euro-pean Athletic Association, will automatically attend meetings of the BAF council so he will still be able to influence the domestic scene. Thus, if Parsons were elected ahead of Evanson, the BAF executive chairman Peter Radford would have furthered his grand design - to give the top athletes a greater say in the running of the sport — and kept Lister on board.

Lister, 10 years in the post, Parsons being elected appear slim. Evanson, who before last year's annual meeting circulated a letter that was widely critical of Lister. seems likely to gain the clubs backing although he was roundly beaten by Lister last year,
"Geoff is a very able young

man and I think the future of people like that," said Lister.

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ME SERIES

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Racing

New Tote conditions favour Warm Spell

Ken Oliver

Newbury on Saturday. The Epsom trainer said: "Warm Spell is in good form for the Tote Gold Trophy. I just hope the weather relents."

conditions has certainly improved the six-year-old's prospects. The weights rose only 3lb for the £100,000 handicap after vesterday's acceptance stage, leaving him still 4lb out of the handicap headed by Moorish on 11st 10lb.

But the new clause stipulates that if no borse at 12st or above is declared at the overnight stage the weights will beaten b

"That seems fine," quipped Moore, "He hasn't been held up in his work and our only problem is the weather. He has done plenty of work since Kempton and he will be even Warm Spell, who was hav-

ing his first run over hurdles for 433 days, although he had been running on the Flat, heat Frickley by four lengths when landing the Bic Razor Handicap at Kempton last month. The Tote make him 7-2

favourite for Saturday's race, followed by 5-1 Express Gift, 13-2 Pridwell, 9-1 Frickley. 12-1 Squire Silk, Thornton Gate and Cheryl's Lad.



"Tony McCoy was impressed inquiry that Livio had been with him at Kempton and dropped 41b in error between said he would ride him the two races, the Catterick ARY MOORE is hoping again," said ne would ride him again," said Moore. "I would for a warm spell in give Pridwell plenty of respect and they say Frickley respect and they say Frickley has improved since, but he would need to. I definitely wouldn't swap Warm Spell for any of them."

he weather relents."

A new clause in the race a half-hour inquiry at Portman Square yesterday, the trainer Lett Lungo and jockey Tim Reed were exonerated from committing a breach of rule 151 over the running and riding of Livio at Haydock

last December. The gelding, a 14-1 shot, was described as "never placed to challenge" by the official form book when eighth, beaten 19 lengths, to Great

The matter was referred to the Jockey Club after Livio landed a two-lengths success in a 14-runner handicap at Catterick a week later when he was sent off 64 favourite. series of misunderstandings

A relieved Lungo blamed a as the reason for the inquiry. "Considering the difference in quality of the Haydock and Catterick race, and considering that it was admitted in the

win came as no surprise." At Lingfield this afternoon, Tragic Hero (4.20), with the very capable Jim Durkan in the saddle, looks worthy of the nap in the concluding

Peach Handicap for amateur Martin Pipe's four-year-old has not been seen out on the Flat since finishing down the field behind Bentico at Leicester in October, but is fit from hurdling, having run Danjing to threequarters of a length at

Ludlow last month. Frankie Dettori can land a double with Cornish Snow and Sweet Supposin, Cornish Snow (3.20) was a well backed favourite on his only outing last year, finishing fourth to Midnight Blue at As-cot, and should prove too good for the moderate maid-

ens he meets in the Nectarine Sweet Supposin (2.50) was beaten half a length by Masmin last month, but now enioys a 4lb pull in the weights for the Plum Claiming Stakes. With the champion jockey taking over the reins, I expect the placings to be reversed.

Results

SOUTHWELL 1.30 (71): 1, CHADLERON LANE, F Lynch (4-1): 2, Deerwe (9-4): fav): 3, Serious (4-1): 2, Deerwe (9-4): fav): 3, Serious shead) Tour 15.60; 51.50, 51.50, 11.10. Deal F: 53.00, CSF: 513.15. Tricust C22.00, Tricu

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2.30 (97: 1. COASTQUARDS NUMB., M
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17.10: 123.40.
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(7-1): 2. Cuider King (5-1): 3. Star PerFerman (10-1). 4-1 jitsv Mentalazanythin E

Our Torn. 12 ran. No. 1. (D Chapman) Total 27.00; 22.00, 52.10, 53.00. Dual P. \$72.70. CSP: 54.03. Trice 25.20. Total P. \$72.70. CSP: 54.03. Trice 25.20. R. Ruppin (13-1). 7-2 it fant. 3, High Prevalum (12-1). 7-2 it fant. 10, 11.00, 13.00. Dual P. \$74.10. CSP: 53.00. Dual P. \$74.10. CSP: 53.00. Tricast 22.10.81. Trice 251.00. NR: \$vee! Mignonette. Migronette. 4.00 (90): 1, Strik billyll., I. Chernock (4-5 tav); 2, Sense of Priority (3-1); 3, La Dama (100-1). 6 ran, 4, 1% (M Cantacho) Toler, f.1.09; (1.30, (2.50, Dual F. 22.30, CSF. 23.63.

23.63.
4.30 (775 -1, STEERY MAYE, C Tongue (13-2); 2, Hi Rook (11-2); 3, Onioni Martin (10-1); 7-2 inv Cabchange Stue, 11 ran, Shot. X. (S Bowing) Total 23.50; 22.50, 12.20, C2.50. Deal F. 150.40, GSF; 563.02. Tricust: 2357.02. Tricust: 2557.02. Tricust: 2557.02. Tricust: 259.02. Tricust: 259.0

Salter given 21-day ban after drugs charge

DARREN SALTER, a con-ditional jockey attached to Rod Millman's Cullompton stable, was yesterday banned 21 days (starting Thursday) after failing a drug test.

Salter's urine was found to contain a cannabinoids after he was asked to pro-vide a sample at Chepstow on November 22. In a brief statement the

23 year-old jockey said: "I deeply regret having had to appear before the disciplinary committee afternoon. "The positive finding of cannabis was a result of my

unknowingly consuming the drug in cake form at a party. "I believe my explanation has been accepted by the Jockey Club and is reflected in the fact that I

was disqualified for less than a month." Tests are carried out at one meeting a week on average. They are operated by the Sports Council with three to six riders tested

 Richard Dunwoody and Paul Carberry were in the money at Navan yesterday. Dunwoody was suc cessful on Perspex Gale, while Carberry scored on Sorry About That.

64 cards lost

ACING has again been hit by the icy weather, with and Warwick, like Newton Abbot yesterday, abandoned because of frost.

This brings the number of

meetings lost this season to

Prospects are poor for tomorrow's fixtures at Ascot and Ludlow. Both courses nndergo inspections this morning, while Huntingdon and Wincanton are pessionistic about their chances of rac-

career, but after losing in three sets in Philadelphia drew from the 1995 Austraranked Briton, is 39th.

Lingfield All-weather Flat card with form 1.60 Items. 2.80 Copper Bright = 40 Sweet Supposin (sk)

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105 32402- BOYAL EXUMENSION (200) Mrs M Revoley 4-0-6
105 325-00 EARDER (129 5 Cow 4-0-6)
107 305-39 MEMER SO MITE (10) D Arbeited 4-0-0
108 30-415 MOYAL CROCKS (12) (CD) (No) P Webber 7-0-4
109 300-0 UNCHARTED WATER (10) C (201 F-0-7
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4-0 COMMON OFFICE (20) C Marry 9-7
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412 CORRESH SHOW (123) D Loder 3-8-7
412
412 TERRISHON (15) D OFFICE 3-8-2 1995: Wild Mice 3 h & W Woods 10-11 (G Wrong) 7 con Bettings 4-6 Comish Snow, 5-1 Gilliotx, 6-1 Cell Tophores, 8-1 Takeshi, 10-1 Baranov, 12-1 Office Hours TOP FORM TIPS: Leabou S. Justice 7, March Steri & Matting: 3-1 Lochon, 4-1 Jacoro, 6-1 Sir Taster, Maple Burt, 7-1 Robo Megic, 5-1 Etion Ledger, 10-1 Warr Hausted. FORM GERICE - San TASKER: Book claying leaders, he eating final 21, 51 4th of 8 to Principle Bu 10 male

(6) 9 Mrs H Nonese 811 53600- MELL (131) (D) B Cambriga 10-9-13 612 100-203 DOSFT DROP BORDS (17) (C) (D) D Tross ?-8-9 ss J Pelitien TOP FORM TIPS: Digmart B, Tragle Hern 7, Dream Carrier 8

1995: Montahasaytida 6 11 D Mics B Catahouse 7-2 (A Balley) B can Settings 3-4 Dignast, 11-4 Trage: Hara, 8-2 Dream Carrer, 8-1 Roman Reel, 8-1 Don't Drop Bombs.

PORTE CRIDE - DESPACT: Slowly away, effort of out, let 21 out, by Foor of Spacke by 20 with DREAM CARPIER (rec 16th) let 37 out to 22 out, except 45 every 3rd, MONTONE (rec 17th) adopt let 27 out, raised well letter stages but subsequently dequalified, another 18 away 4th, LOYE LECEND (rec 15th) weekenod 21 out, garder 30 letter 5th (receptuary) promoted) and 40N°S CHOICE (rec 25th) over dangerous, another 60 away 8th (Loyflett 1st, Std).
TRANKE FIRST Scot is rear, 50 extra from highway, 201 fixth of 20 to Bentico (Lectusier 1st, Gd).
HOMBAR RESULT Let 31 out stiff leaded from 11, 21 2nd of 8 to Occion (Linguided 1st, Std).
DON'T DROP (CRISES) Lad to 31 out, 321 3rd of 13 to Royal Circus (Linguided 1st-4f, Std).

● Visored today for the first time: 2.50 Zuno Flyer; 3.20 Takeshi, Desert Water; 4.20 Canary Falcon.

Boro ready for second Brazilian

lan Ross

is becoming irresist-ible to South America's finest. Yesterday in near-Arctic conditions, the Brazilian international defender Branco arrived at Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium to discuss the prospect of forging an improbable part-nership with his fellow-coun-

Although the 31-year-old full-back would not cost a fee, having hought out his contract with Internacionale of Brazil, he is believed to be de-

manding wages of about 220,000 a week.

"Juninho is very happy here and he said he would like me to come and join him," said Branco. "We have leved together hefore in the played together before in the national squad. We are good friends and that is the main reason why I settled on

"I wanted to come here because England has one of the best leagues in the world. I had a few offers from other English clubs and also from teams in Japan, Spain and America, but I want to play alongside Juninho."

The news from Newcastle was less encouraging yester-day as the Premiership leaders made no attempt to deny that the proposed signing of the Colombian Faustino As-

prilla had collapsed. Parma said at the weekend ing to reduce the £5.7 million fee after it was revealed Asprilla had not fully recovered from a knee injury sustained almost five years ago.

Keegan declined to discuss Asprilla while underlining

more players of quality. "I want to strengthen

things but the problem is finding the right men." he said. "I have always said we could win something with the squad we have already; we are trying to buy for next sea-The Leeds manager Howard

Wilkinson has stressed that Tomas Brolin's stay in West Yorkshire need not be brief and unfulfilling.
Dismayed at his failure to

win a place even in a side de-pleted by injuries and suspension at Aston Villa, the Swed-ish international forward admitted he was considering his future less than three months after his arrival from Parma for £4.5 million. Brolin's sarcastic declara-

tion that he "wasn't good enough" to line up at Villa Park prompted Wilkinson to explain the thinking behind a decision made all the more confusing by the manner of a comprehensive 3-0 defeat.

"All talk of a rift, of a bustup or a fall-out, is absolute

rubbish," said Wilkinson.
"The fact is he wasn't selected on Saturday. He has not settled into Premiership foot-ball as well as everybody would have liked. And he has not produced the form which

we know he is capable of." Everton, it seems, have convinced the Russian Football Association that Andrei Kanchelskis should be released from international duty to help the FA Cup holders in their fourth-round replay at Port Vale tomorrow night.

Kanchelskis is scheduled to depart for a four-nation tournament in Malta tonight but. after several days of patient negotiation, he will probably take his place at Vale Park.

Enter Big Mac in the shadow of Big Jack

Cynthia Bateman in Dublin witnesses a damp start to a new era for the Irish Republic

T RAINED as it only can in Ireland. Lansdowne Road dripped uninvitingly; the great empty stands were solate, draughts and eddies time. I'm glad he's got the job. Ireland. Lansdowne Road dripped uninvitingly; the great empty stands were desolate, draughts and eddies whispered Big Jack's name along the terraces. His presence is still there, sure

enough; but he is not. Into his giant shadow yes-terday strode the Rapublic of ireland's new manager Mick.
McCarthy, who to take up his
new post has left his job at
Millwall with two years of his
contract to run. Thus 45 days after Charlton's departure, the Football Association of reland's six-man committee has chosen the man the Irish people thought from the beginning was right for the job.
Alex Ferguson gave the
cold shoulder. Kenny Dalglish
flirted briefly and Joe Kin-

near was less than enthusias-tic when the contract turned out to be for only two years and the money only 280,000.
Big Mac, as the supporters
call the former centre-half
who won 57 caps and led them to the quarter-finals in Italia '90, wanted the job at any

"Will it make you a million-aire like Jack?" he was asked. "Only if somebody takes the other millions out of my bank," he joked.

It was mostly good hu-moured as the sartorially su-perior McCarthy — Big Jack never had his tie straight or his collar turned down posed for photographs in the

Like Chariton, McCarthy has a commanding presence. More than anything it is the straight back, the look-me-inthe eye challenge and the ability to pick out individuals in a crowd. He is not only a friend of Charlton but a

He'll be good for Ireland. "People who say Mick will be a copy of me are talking nonsense. He has totally dif-

ferent ideas on the way the game should be played." McCarthy confirmed: "I will do it my way and hope-fully it will be a successful way. If it isn't they will have the doors open on the ferry waiting to send me back"— specifically to his home in Kent and his wife Fiona and

three young children. His way, if his style at Mill-wall is followed, and because the younger players he inherited from Charlton play the ball to feet, is likely to be

My aim is to qualify for the World Cup in France in 1998. But after the great success of the last 10 years, expeciations are very high. I have the feeling that every-body thinks it is cut and

Liechtenstein, the side who started the slide that saw the Irish eliminated from the European Championship and led to Chariton's resignation, will be McCarthy's first World Cup qualifying oppo-nents in Dublin on August 31. against Russia in May, an away game in the Czech Republic and a tour of the United States for the US Cup tournament.

It was after the US Cup in 1992 that McCarthy hung up his boots for the Republic Asked if he was still too close to the players to be an effective manager, he said he thought he was chums with devotee. 27 players at Miliwali until Yesterday Charlton returned he dropped 13 of them.

"That's what you have to be able to swallow," he said. The present Republic play-You can put the names to the ages, as their manager I want to talk to them before they read anything in the papers"
— will undoubtedly have to go as McCarthy seeks new

He said that if the former Millwall player Chris Arm-strong was eligible for Ireland — he is — he would approach him. To get the in-form Tot-tenham striker would be a first and terrific coup. Armstrong would not be jeopardising his club chances by declaring for the Republic because the Bosman ruling has ended the restriction on the number of EU players a club can field in European and domestic competitions. McCarthy batted the ques

tions backwards and forwards; here a subtle drop-shot, there a swiftly volleyed ace when old enmities were mentioned. He declared himself excited and daunted at the prospect of his job and paid tribute to the

effect Charlton's success had had on the Irish domestic game, "When I started play-ing for the Republic, I could walk down the street and no one recognised me; now look at all of you here." Once the formal news conference was over, McCarthy, with just a trace of sweat on

his brow, disappeared under a mountain of microphones and cameras as the important questions such as "Do you like Shredded Wheat?" were asked. When he emerged, Louis Kilcoyne, the president of the FAI, popped the champagne cork. "You know I'm teetotal. don't you?" McCarthy don't you?" McCarthy warned The FAI's officials laughed nervously. McCarthy held up the glass for the pho-tographers and then put down the drink untouched. The same man as Jack Charlton? Think again. But he may prove he is every bit as good.

Blake may get chance for Bolton

ATHAN BLAKE, who has will ensure that the pitch is playable but snow and ice or matches for Bolton since his the terracing could be a prob move from Sheffield United, may get the chance to break his duck at Burnden Park tonight if the FA Cup fourth-

playable but snow and ice on the terracing could be a problem. If the game goes ahead Blake may be in for John McGinlay, whom he replaced on Saturday at Ewood Park when Bolton's top scorer for

FA annoyed by hotel 'rip-offs'

John Duncan

ISITING supporters are being ripped off by hotels hiking up prices in cities hosting Euro '96, the Football Association claimed yesterday. The FA is "seri-ously alarmed" at reports that some hotels are more than trebling their prices for the tournament in June.

"We have heard of one citycentre hotel which normally charges £40 a night for bed and breakfast on a Saturday or Sunday seeking £160 for the same room, excluding breakfast," said David Davies, the FA's director of

the host cities outside London has enough accommodation Manchester, for example, is expecting 50,000 visitors but the city has only 28,000 beds. Demand for major city-centre hotels has been such that there are said to be few rooms available in the medium and higher price

Hoteliers, however, hit smaller guest houses. Jenny back at the FA last night. We Kirk, owner of the Tourist rearrange our prices as a matter of course," said an execu-tive of Britannia hotels, whose group takes in the host cities of Manchester, Bir-vinchester, Bir-vinchester, Bir-vinchester, Bir-vinchester, Bir-vinchester, Bir-vet. We're more worried ter of course," said an execumingham and London. "That is business. When there is a quiet period it is reflected in our rates; when it is busy, that is too." Britannia's Manchester hotel will character that will character that it is too." Britannia's Manchester hotel will character that is good enough business. that is too." Britannia's Man-chester hotel will charge £140 for me."

Aston Villa

Blackburn

Bolton

Burnley

Everton

Brentford

Coventry City

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28 Norwich City

\$1 Middlesbrough

Newcastle Utd

a night for a single room during Euro '96; last night one could have stayed there for

The local authorities are belatedly contemplating camp-sites for supporters — the youth hostel was blockbooked by Scandingvians a year ago — but are concerned about security problems. Manchester is also looking at the use of halls of residence at local universities who have brought term-time forward to prevent the championship clashing with exams. Some foreign tour opera-

tors are encouraging support ers to make day trips to avoid hotel rip-offs, which would have a serious impact on spending by fans in the host cities. "What we are seeking is a football festival that reflects nothing but credit on this country," said Davies. "Frankly, hotels which exploit our guests are letting everyone down. We appeal to them to rethink what they are

doing. The overcharging problem does not appear to concern smaller guest houses. Jenny Board-commended Newlyn

19 Sheffield United

03 Sheffield Wed.

36 Southhampton

01 Tottenham Hot.

Wimbledon

30

12

26

37

04 Stoke City

16 Walves

18 Celtic

13

02 Sunderland

What next from out of Africa?

Amid the Nations' Cup euphoria **John Perlman** in Johannesburg | ritius had only two players | with regular experience in a wonders where an African World Cup contender may emerge | first division that is hardly wonders where an African World Cup contender may emerge

Smiling Irish eyes ... Mick McCarthy takes over at Lansdowne Road PHOTOGRAPH JOHN COGLI.

Nations' Cup Issa beating Tunisia? It is not a bad Hayatou, president of bet on the face of it. Hayatou, president of the Confederation of African Football, said it was "only a matter of time before Africa wins the World Cup".

He was echoing the thoughts of many, starting with the former England coach Walter Winterbottom in 1962, who predicted an African country would be world champions before the end of the century. Hayatou was less specific but looks like being more accurate, with only the 1998 World Cup finals to come before the end of the millennium.

It would have been interest-ing to ask Hayatou which of the four teams playing on the last day of the African Nations' Cup — the final was preceded by the third-place play-off — he thought most likely to fulfil this dream.

Lack of resources constantly choke so much foot-balling promise in Africa; 11 teams were forced to withdraw from the qualifiers becould not afford the costs. That would not be a problem for the relatively rich couth Resources were put to good use in this

South Africa's coach Clive Barker was given a team of assistants to analyse every rival, and the former England international Budgie Byrne's spying on Ghana played a key role in their semi-final win. The players were well looked after and properly paid and nobody interfered in team selection.

There was no such luck for some teams. Zaire's coach Muhsin Ertugal resigned

EFORE the start of ment after demolishing Ghana of the country's FA insisted the 20th African 3-0 in the semi-finals and then on helping pick the team; and two Europe-based players quit because they had not

been paid. South Africa has more sporting facilities than the rest of the continent comand the added inspiration of a major football trophy won at the first try. But there are some clouds about. The average age of the team

that won the cup is 27. That is not alarming: the short-term goals of success in the tournament and a boost for the game have been richly realised. But it points to a much deeper problem: South Africa has failed to introduce young tal-ent into the higher levels of the game for some time, with many first division clubs relying heavily on imported players of ordinary ability. The national under-20 team

which was eliminated from Would he opt for South Af-rica, winners of the tourna-sea Mindre and the president the first hurdle by lowly Mau-

bursting with talent.

Ghana does not have. Despite losing the third-place game 1-0 to Zambia, a Ghanaian team with an average age of around 21 played some won-derful football, spoiled by their finishing. Many of the players are graduates of the team that won the 1991 Under-17 World Cup, all but a few Ghana won the Under-17 tro-

phy again last year.
There is no doubting the richness of Ghana's promise. But in this tournament their team, even with Tony Yeboah and Abedi Pele, never gave the sustained quality of per-formance to suggest an ability to challenge Europe's and South America's best.

It is difficult indeed think of any tesun that did, even if South Africa came close against Ghana. Zambia gave one brilliant performance, against Egypt in the quarter-finals but faded badly after that. Their key man Kalusha Bwalya is now 32.

hardly mentioned in the three weeks of the tournament, as 1994 champions they were sorely missed. Like Ghana, they have twice won the world Under-17 title and their current crop of internationals, a mix of experienced and burgeoning young talent, still

World Cup success.
But if the four-year worldwide ban imposed on Nigeria for withdrawing from the now play in Europe and African Nations' Cup remains in force, they will not appear in France in 1998.

For the rest of the teams, if

look like Africa's best bet for

the three weeks in South Africa are any indication, Haystou's 'matter of time". may still be some time off. Alex Ferguson, the Man-chester United manager, yesterday confirmed that he terday confirmed that he wants to sign the South Africa central defender Mark Fish. The 30-year-old player, outstanding in the African Nations' Cup, was approached by United's director Sir Bobby Chariton during the tournament Arsenal, Tottlenham an agreenal Trailian

SFA delays sign of cross punishment

THE Scottish FA made a pre-emptive strike against an injustice yesterday when it deferred a suspension on the Partick Thistle striker Rod McDonald, writes Patrick

Glenn.
McDonald, cautioned by the referee Jim McGilvray at half-time in Saturday's match against Rangers for making the sign of the cross as he left the field, was given a second vellow card for a foul in the second half and was sent

He was due an automatic one-match ban but the offences would also have taken him beyond the disciplinary-points limit and ensured a further suspension.

However, the SFA, after seeing a fax from the Thistle's chairman Jim Oliver and reports from the referee and a linesman, put any punish-ment in abeyance until March. The first caution and the ordering-off will probably

the tournament. Arsenal, Tottenham an several Italian clubs are also interested.

On the downside, the Thistee defender Steve Pittman has been suspended for eight matches.

Results

UNISONO LEAGURE PI matches postponed. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION

Alpine Skiing

ALDITIC SECURES

REGIES WORLD CUP (Garmisch-Parkerhirchen)* Bapen-giant statemer 1, W Perzifner III) 17th 19 520; 2, L Alphand
LiFry 1.19 53; 3, P Wirth (Aus) 120,05; 4-, S
Krauss (Ger); J Leskinen (Fin) 1.20,35; 4, K
Checina; Kri 1, 20 57. Albox 50, G Bell (GB)
1.22 70. Starrelingser 1, H Knaus (Aut) 207;
2. Staardal 200; 3, Kyus 180; 4-, F Nyberg
15-wei; Fi Kroeti (Aut) 191; 6, Alphand 196.
Overalls 1, Kyus 67-4pts; 2, G Macder (Aut)
ECQ; 3, M von Gruenigen (Switz) 778; 4-,
Alphand; Knaus 600; 6, A Tomba III 616.
Alpens 137, Bell 6.

American Football Basketball

INGAS INCOLOGIAIN

WIRAS Inchiana 90, New York 93: Orlando
122. San Antonio 109 (od); Washington 115,
Phoenix 123 (od); Atlanta 100, Charlotte
104; Derver 105, Charlotte
110, Utah 103, Golden State 96, New Jer110, Utah 103, Golden State 96, New Jervy 92: Ethershepper Enacture Conditionation
Atlantifics 1. Orlando (W33, 113, Pc1717,
680); 2, New York (28-15-536-4); 3, Washington (22-22-500-10); 4, Mismil (20-23455-13); 5, New Jersey 118-27-40-109; 6,
Boston (17-28-278-159); 7, Philadelphia (25182-44). Covennels 1. Chicacon (W45-1. Ld. 18-27-372-39; 8, Toronto (13-32-289-26), Weathers Conferences Michaesth 1, Son Antonio (W29, L14, Pct.674, GB0); 2, Usai (20-15-68-1); A, Denwer (18-26-422-11); 5, Dallas (15-38-349-14), 6, Memeosta (12-31-278-17); 7, Vancouver (10-35-222-20), Paolifies (17-31-278-179-7); 4, Pct.731, GB0); 2, Smorti-mento (24-17-952-7); 3, LA Laisers (25-59-7); 4, Pct.731, GB0); 2, Smorti-mento (24-17-952-7); 3, LA Laisers (25-59-478, GB0); 2, Smorti-mento (24-17-952-7); 3, LA Laisers (25-59-478, GB0); 2, Smorti-mento (24-17-952-7); 3, LA Laisers (25-59-478, GB0); 2, Smorti-mento (24-17-952-7); 3, LA Laisers (25-59-444-178); 7, LA Clappers (16-29-356-17).

Chess

WORLD WOMER'S CHAMPIONSHIP Jaen. Spi: First game: Z Polger (Hun) 0, Xia Jun (Chi 1. Second and third stament drawn. Fourth same: Xio 0, Pol-ger 1. Standings: Xie 2, Polger Z. Cricket RED STRIPE CUP: Pers-of-System Guy-ana 173 (Dhamai 4-84) & 162 (N de Groot 72: Antome 5-47). Trindad & Tobogo 228 (P Samanos 90: K Mason 67, Browne 5-45) & 88-2 Trandad & Tobogo won by eight vickets Bridgetownu Windward is 220 (K Sylvestor 77) & 318 U/ Papo 74. J Murray 70. Barbados 239 (A Griffith 191) & 213-6 Barbados 239 (A Griffith 191) & 213-6 Barbados 239 (A Griffith 191) & 213-6 ice Hockey

RCE FIDGEREY

BRITTERI LEAGUE Pression: Cardiff S.
Newcastie 4: Durham S. Fife 6: Million
Reymae 1. Humbletatie 2: Stough 7: BasIngestate 5: Devision Cress Billingham 5.
Chelmstord 8: Blascidum 9: Inflord 7: Manteeter 4: Brackmel 2: Murrayfield 1, Guildford 9: Paletey 5: Switchon 2: Peterborough
3, Durhites 11: Solfmal 5: Medway 6.
MMLS British 2: Tampe Bay 5: Winnings 3: AnManacounter 4: NY Inflanding 6: Dallas 3: An-Varnouver 4, NY Inlandert 5, Dallas 3, Anaheim 1, Chicago 4, Strandhiyas Essaderus
Essaderus (Chicago 4, Strandhiyas Essaderus
Casilverences Reritament: 1, Pittoburgh
(KS1, L17, T3, GR2SB, GA47), Pre55; 2, Monton
(22-20-7-175-177-51); 4, Harriord (20-25-5-140-183-46); 5, Butlato (20-25-5-150-18945); 6, Cosawa (8-40-5-180-40-5), Adlanfiler 1, Florida (WS2, L14, T8, GF182,
GA14g, Pa070); 2, NY Faungurs (20-12-10138-40); 4, Wasnington (20-27-5-145-13455); 6, New Jersey (23-28-130-145-52); 6, Tampa Bay (22-21-7-151-182-57); 7, NY Islanders (14-28-5-148-102-25). Tamps Bay (22-31-7-151-165-97); 7, NY la-landstra (14-25-4-146-162-50); Western Cardispension Condrate 1, Debott (W36, L9, 74, GE-98, CA108, Pergil); 2, Chicago (25-15-16-164-163-47); 3, Toronto (22-00-4-152-15-58); 4, St Louis (21-24-153-165-51); 5, Wiendyng (21-05-4-173-169-46); 6, Dalins (14-25-11-160-177-38), Pandifer 1, Colorado (W36, L15, T9, GP-205, GA145, Pandifer) (W36, L15, T9, GP-205, GA145, Pandifer) (17-24-12-173-187-46); 5, Edmonton (18-25-153-190-42); 6, Anahelm (18-25-165-175-47); 7, San Joyn (11-38-5-160-225-27).

Motor Sport MOTOUT SPOTT

BESA ROLLEX 2-4-HOUTE BACE (Day-toria): 1. W Taylor (US), S Sharp (US), J Pace (US) Cidismobile R and S MK-III, 697 lays, 103.24/mgh; 2. Q Moredf (I), M Papit (R), B Wollek (Fr., D Theys (Bel) Ferrari 3238P, 897; 2. J Downing (US), B Hamile (US), T McAdam (US), B Weddell (US) Mazde Notzu (ELM, 699 Allers (E), D Mir-shall (US), S Marshall (US), M Konig (QS), P Chambers (US), S Marshall (US), M Konig (QS), P Chambers (US), J Warver (GS), B Lettizinger (US), A Wallson (GS) Ford R and S Mit-II, 598.

Snooker BENSON AND HEDGES MASTERS (Weinbley Conference Centra): First rounds A Make (Engl & C Row (Engl 5-2

Fixtures

Soccer FA CUP: Fourth, round: Botton v Leod. (7.49), Huddersfield v Peterborough (7.45), Bowleh v Walsall (7.45). BNDSLEDOM LEADURE: Sepond: "Black pool v Burnley, Briskel Ryra v Chesterfield Carlista v York (7.45), "Mycombo v Rother fam (7.45), Swansaa v Stockport, Talvid Chester v Northampion: "Colchester v Northampion: "

Morgan 67, N Perry 74). Lessard is 227 & 184 (M Glibbs, 4-42). Jameica won by an Imminge and 73 runs.

Separation of the Community of the Comm Braise Keysering v Slough (7.45). and YADDHALL CONTRACTOR

GM VANDONALL CONSTRUCTS (AS):
Clover v. Africhams. Formagnow v. Tellord.
Leek The Accringtion Stanley.
Losk The Accringtion The Therman Lud; Heybridge Swelfte v. Stalmen Th: Wendaloy v.
Loyton Pennant. Seconds: Chelitont &t.
Peter v. Hungartard The Derking v. Egham
Th; Harmacon v. Salthon Walden Th; Leathunfract v. Hungartard The Derking v. Egham
Th; Harmacon v. Salthon Walden Th; Leathunfracts. Horsans. LEAGUE: Presshored &t.
Harmacon E. Harmacon v. Camberley Th.
MALERIA HORSES. LEAGUE: Presshored &t.
Harmacon Beckingtiam Th; Tamworth v.
Hungation Box. Seedisems. Erth & Belvedera v. Stidinghoume; Weymouth v. Bestley. Dr. Martens Caps. Tailed rounds from
the Walden Box. Seedisems. Erth & Belvedera v. Stidinghoume; Weymouth v. Bestley. Dr. Martens Caps. Tailed rounds from
the Walden Box. Seedisems. Erth & Belvedera v. Stidinghoume; Weymouth v. Bestley. Dr. Martens Caps. Tailed rounds from
the Walden Box. Seedisems. Erth & Belvethrow v. Stidinghoume; Weymouth v. Bestley. Dr. Martens Caps. Tailed rounds from
the Walden Box. Seedisems. Erth & Belvethrow v. Stidinghoume; Weymouth v. Bestley. Dr. Martens Could the Stiding
Trelling v. College Forest through the Stiding
Trelling v. College Forest through the Stiding
This v. College Forest through v. Butley. Dr. Martens Caps.
The Stidinghoum v. Norwich (7.0);
Charlino v. Winnbisdon (2.0); Second Othleisens Cardill v. Newvoort AFC (7.30);
LEAGUE: Gr. Walder V. Bestiery, ColonCollege Fine Stiding v. Stidinghoum, ColonCollege Fine Stiding v. V. Derkliery,
Colon-College Fine Collonnille v. Coloraline
Charlino v. Waldens V. Stidinghoum v. Leagues d.

Fine Stiviales Cillionnille v. Coloraline
Colon-College Fine Stiding v. Halley.

The Stidinghoum v. Research of the Stiding v. Halley.

The Stidinghoum v. Stidinghoum v. Halley.

The Stidinghoum v. Stidinghoum v. Halle

Rugby Union TOUR BATCH Uisler v NSW (Reventill).

Obtaine Health v Aberavon (7.0), CLUM: Trudaga: v Newtridge (7.0), WRU BILIMEEK COMPLITHON (7.0): Witt Bildwask Coastinition (7.0) Pool & Abercynen v Ponlypool, Peol B Narberth v Danvant, Tenby Utd v Landov ery. Pool C: Caerahilly v South Wate Police; Lianharan v Cardiff Institute. Peo Sk Bonymaen v Tordu; Varadgyolala v

(7:30 unless stated: "=pitch inspection) Rugby League SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: House four Whitehaven v Halitas. Postponod

Hockey

Sport in brief ******************

Werner Perathoner of Italy claimed his first World Cup victory of the season in Gar-misch-Partenkirchen yesterday in a super-giant slatom halted three times because of problems on the piste. Perathoner took advantage of a high starting number to beat Luc Alphand of France and

Boxing Yuri Arhachakov of Russia retained his WBC flyweight

title by outpointing Raul Jua-rez of Mexico in Tokyo. Golf Ian Woosnam has climbed to No. 26 in the world rankings on the strength of his back-to-

hack European Tour victories in the Johnnie Walker Classic in Singapore and the Heine-ken Classic in Perth. Basketball The Chicago Bulls' 18-game winning streak ended on Sunday when they were beaten 105-99 by the Denver Nuggets.

Cycling Only one French team, GAN, ed by Britain's Chris Board man, have been given auto-

Ice Skating

Yang Yang of China set a world record in the women's speed skating short-track 1,500 metres yesterday, clock-ing 2min 28.93sec at the Asian Winter Games in Harbin.

Rugby League for Widnes, has been appointed coach of Chorley.

Sailing

Round-world housewife

Bob Fisher

AN Eastbourne syndicate led by a feisty 42-year-old bousewife yesterday became the 38th entry for the Whit-bread Round the World Race of 1997-98. Sussex Challenge will be skippered by Jacky MacGillivary, whose first, mate is her husband David. She claims to have more than half a million miles of cruising and racing to her credit but admitted that the racing was not at the grand prix level. Importantly, though her drive has ensured the financial support of BUPA the financial support of BUFA International, Business Against Drugs, the Eastbourne College of Arts and Technology and a welter of local companies and organisations. Most of the budgetary recultivament of \$24 million is requirement of £2% million is

in place. Mrs MacGillivary de-scribed her husband's job on board as "to protect the crew from the skipper". Many of them have been chosen. They are mixed, amateur and, in matic entry into this year's the main, in their early twenties. Their boat is already ear-

built Hetman Sahaidachny, which finished seventh in the last race, taking 15 days more than the winner - "unless we have the money to build a new one," the skipper said. • The International Yacht Racing Union has confirmed Kevin Tamati, who won 22 that it will hold evaluation New Zealand caps and played trials for a "high-performance that it will hold evaluation dinghy" for the Olympics in

Pools Forecast

PROGLEMON LEAGUE PRIST DIVISION

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Personal Forecast

High-speed return by Hakkinen

KA HAKKINEN picked up the threads of his career yesterday with an impressive first out-ing at the wheel of a Formula One car since he sustained severe head injuries in a high-speed crash during qualifying for last year's Australian Grand Prix.

The 27-year-old Finn was driving last year's McLaren-Mercedes in a test which the team had planned to keep as private as possible, but he posted a fastest time within a second of the world champion Michael Schumacher's best in the Ferrari at the Paul Ricard circuit in southern France

over the weekend.
"Mika's testing himself rather than the car," said a McLaren spokesman. "He has been training hard and we wanted him to have his first run since the accident without any pressure."

A week of pre-season car launches was dominated by the unveiling of Benetton's new Renault-engined B196. In contrast to Hakkinen's lowkey return. Benetton's launch in the Sicilian resort of Taor-



Hakkinen . . . impressive

mina was conducted in the best tradition of F1 high glitz. with Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger driving two of last year's Benetton-Renaults through the main Corso Umberto, there was an official presentation of last year's Constructors Championship trophy to Benetton by Max Mosley, president of the gov-erning body Fia.

The action then switched to the 2,000-year-old Teatro Antico, where Alesi, French by nationality but Sicilian by birth, unveiled the new Benetion B196 in the com-pany of celebrities including the French film star Gerard Depardieu and Italian actress Mara Venner.

know, however, that they face a huge challenge in filling the void at Benetton left by Schumacher's defection to Ferrari.
The team's technical direc-

tor Ross Brawn describes the new car as "evolutionary but with significantly improved aerodynamics" and holds out considerable optimism that the team will sustain their winning ways. The proof of the pudding, of

course, will come during the exit few weeks of testing at Estoril before the first race of the season, the Australian Grand Prix at Melbourne's new Albert Park circuit on March 10.

Hakkinen meanwhile will be moving on to Estoril for Sunday's launch of the allnew McLaren-Mercedes MP4/11, on which David Coulthard's hopes for 1996 will also be pinned.

The Scot, who left Williams at the end of last season, will have to wait only until the following day to see what his old team have come up with. The new Williams FW18 for Damon Hill and Jacques cover in the same pit lane next Monday.



Formula One glitz... the Sicilian resort of Taormina is the setting as Benetton unveil the new Renault-engined B196

Why British engineering is the pits' pick

Alan Henry on a remarkable success

as many sleepless and Subaru have their rally nights, the 1996 Benetton. cars produced for them by the McLaren and Williams cars now being unveiled have one

macher's allegiance may have transferred from Benetton to Ferrari but the world champion will continue to rely on British engineering design as he attempts a hat-trick of For-

mula One titles. Benetion and Ferrari are Italian-owned and controlled. but both teams have moved their design and research headquarters to south-eastern England to take full advan-tage of Britain's unique motor-racing infrastructure. It may surprise people who have seen the nation's volume car manufacturers picked off by foreign competitors, but

when it comes to racing cars the world still likes to buy British. So much so that Luca di Montezemolo, the presi-dent of Ferrari, refers to the corridor around south-west London and Surrey as "the Silicon Valley of interna-

tional motor racing". Six of the 11 teams entered Six of the 11 teams entered for next year's F1 world championship are based here—seven if one counts ferrari, who build the cars they design in Guildford back at company headquarters in Maranello. So are all three world

ESIDES costing mil- rally championship contend-lions and causing ers: Ford and Mitsubishi come over for British skills, Banbury engineers Pro Drive. The wider motor-sport in-

now being unveiled have one quite remarkable thing in common: they are all products of British precision engineering, from drawing board to workshop floor.

Likewise, Michael Schuttimers and in the financial year to last April generated profits of £750 million on foreign earnings of £1.3 billion. Britain has been F1 rac-ing's technical home since the

> Lotus popularised the rear-engine chassis configuration now taken for granted.
>
> Their success created a network of small and highly specialised sub-contractors who soon earned worldwide respect. Since then a virtuous circle has set in, with success attracting more business and

more engineering talent to produce yet more success. From McLaren and Tyrreil near Woking to Ferrari's R&D base near Guildford and on to Williams at Grove near Didcot, Benetton at Chipping Norton, Jordan at Silverstone and Arrows at Milton Keynes, there is a shared commitment to excellence and a continuous cross-fertilisation of ideas.

ation and personnel costs. British expertise extends nard, the Bicester-based British-owned firm, builds Indy-cars — the off-the-peg model costs \$460,000 (\$320,000) — and last season seized pole posi-tion in that branch of motor sport by providing the car that Jacques Villeneuve drove to the IndyCar title. Reynard had export turnover

of £15 million last year. Its IndyCar rivals Lola and Penske are also based here. The British-owned Lola, located in John Major's Huntingdon constituency, has been building Indycars for three decades. The firm has landed the contract to supply chassis for the new one-make Formula 3000 single-seater class in 1996 — £53,000 per chassis, demand expected to exceed 20 units — and makes 95 per cent of its sales abroad.

The US-owned Penske com-pany concluded long ago that Britain was technically and economically the best place to build its cars. Its factory at Poole, Dorset opened more

than 20 years ago.

hodyCar and FI engines are
supplied mainly by two rival
Northampton-based companies, Cosworth and Ilmor Engineering. The former builds grand prix engines for Ford to power the Sauber team in 1996 and Jackle Stewart's Milton Keynes-based team when it starts up in 1997; the latter builds them for Mercedes-Benz to power the McLaren. Ilmor and Cosworth also provide IndyCar "customer engines" off the shelf for around £1 million per year for each two-car team. Exports by both companies are valued at around £25-£30 million a year.

The Zoom Zone How the world's top racing teams ring London Formula 1 Indy car Rally car Key Place C Woking Million/Tyrrell

Ice Hockey

Rinks of gold for the lawyers

Vic Batchelder

NYONE encouraged by the game's growth must also be concerned at its growing pains. The all-time attendance record was beaten by the 12,386-strong crowd at the Nynex Arena for Manchester Storm's 4-2 win over Bracknell on Sunday. But incidents elsewhere promise to maintain the sport as a lucrative field for members of the

legal profession.

"I've a desk full of legal matters. Every day seems to revolve around a call to our solicitor now," the British Ice Hockey Association secretary Hockey Association secretary
David Pickles said yesterday.
"Five years ago I didn't even
know who he was; we just
used to get a calendar at
Christmas. Now he is highly

that desk is the dispute be-tween Telford Tigers and the arena management at Black-burn before Sunday night's Division One match. Telford's Russ Plant was refused entry and prevented from playing in a game the visitors lost 9-7.

Plant, a product of Telford's youth development programme, had moved to Blackburn last season but returned to the Shropshire club last types. With the sides would week. With the sides unable to agree a fee, the BIHA was asked to arbitrate but Telford were given permission to use him pending the outcome. Now Tigers are demanding to be awarded the points or have the game replayed at no cost

incident in which a home player was seriously injured. Hunt was detained by Thames Valley Police and

charged with causing griev-ous bodily harm, but he left the country after the court hearing was twice postponed. The BIHA's disciplinary chairman Frank Dempster was quoted at the time as say-ing that Hunt and the then Racers coach Leo Koopmans Racers coach Leo Koopmans had been placed "under a life-time ban from participating in British ice hockey". Yet on Saturday Hunt returned in Murrayfield Royals' 15-2 home defeat by Swindon Wildcats, BIHA had ordered File and to the BiHA had ordered File and to the beautiful receipt of

involved in running the sport."

One of the latest items on that desk is the dispute between Telford Tigers and the sport. The sport are tween Telford Tigers and the sport are tween Telford Tigers are tween to be reviewed he had given permission for Hunt to return after "consulting three mem-bers of the BIHA council". Dempster also said he had been assured by the club that

the player had not been

charged. But a Thames Valley

police spokeswoman said yes-terday: "We did instigate proceedings at the time and the case is still not closed." Pife Flyers' use of their newly signed Canadian Frank Evans in the defeats at home

Basketball

Byrd continues to prey on the league that rejected his Palace

Robert Pryce

ALTON BYRD, the ur-bane host of a Radio 5 show, Crystal Palace's general manager and part owner, takes up his other role tonight: the besneakered avenger.

Palace, the team the Budweiser League rejected last year, have already ejected two Bud League teams from the National Cup, For the first leg of the semi-final at the National Sports Centre tonight the league will be represented by its champi-ous, the Sheffield Sharks. "This is our chance."

Byrd said yesterday, "to Now rights are defined to points or have be awarded the points or have be game replayed at no cost of themselves.

Murayfield Royals' 15-2 home also "under review". The continue to show people couldn't take another that we belong in the top year," he said, "of satisfied to themselves.

The next case pending continue to show people couldn't take another that we belong in the top year," he said, "of satisfied the point of the point

ace field a team that in-cludes five internationals, including Byrd himself. They are unbeaten in domestic competition since December 10 1994.

The reservations raised by the Bud League last summer have largely been laid to rest. Palace have attracted commercial and local authority interest, sponsorship and healthy enough crowds; for their 80-75 win over the Leopards in the quarter-finals the attendance was just under 2,000.
Palace will apply to the
Bud League again this year,
but Byrd will leave the pre-

SPORTS NEWS 15

Bruno and Benn in pills probe

YES popped at the British Boxing
Board of Control's
offices in London yesterday when officials read press reports from Tenerife that Frank Bruno and Nigel Benn were taking 150 vitamin pills a day. Last night inquiries were being made in the Canaries,

where Britain's two WBC champions are training at a warm-weather camp for their world-title defences next month, Bruno against Mike Tyson, Benn against Sugar Boy Malinga. Ingestion of vitamins on

this scale, as Professor Thomas Sanders, head of nutrition and diet at King's College, London, pointed out yesterday, "could cause John Morris, the Board's

secretary, fears that the fighters are following the dictum to "keep taking the tablets" too seriously. "I've spoken to Frank Warren, the promoter of Bruno and Benn, and had a chat with Frank Bruno's wife Laura, and we just want to know the details," he said last night.

ays Britain's top boxers could be putting themwant to know how and

why." The Board's chief medical officer Adrian Whiteson said: "If they've got a bal-anced diet — and there's no reason to believe they haven't — their nutrition is better than most people's. I don't believe any vitamins they take would have any benefit to them other than

a psychological one." The Board was "not wielding a big stick", stressed Morris. "We are not going to hassle our boxers - we are very proud of them, these are our two WBC world champions but we want chapter and verse medically about what they are doing and how

they are doing it.
"We want to be sure they are not doing anything that puts themselves at risk. Our own medical panel have initiated the inquiknow. Some of this may be exaggerated, but once we find out the levels of vitamins that are being taken we can get experts to assess

Rugby League

Weather threat to Cumbria ties

John Hudey

HE two outstanding Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourth-round ties are continuing to give the Rugby Football League a problem. Both are to be played in Cum-bria, where severe weather is putting them at risk.

The Workington v Widnes match, which should have been played today, was fur-ther postponed for 24 hours after a heavy snowfall. And there will be a pitch inspec-Grounds this morning to see if tonight's Whitehaven v Halifax tie can go ahead. Whitehaven's chairman

Derrick Mossop said: "Unless there is a dramatic change overnight I cannot see the match being played. Roads into the town are blocked and we haven't been able to reach the stadium to see what con-ditions are like."

Yesterday the RFL was considering its options. The most likely outcome seems to be that in the event of further postponements the clubs will be given until Sunday to complete the ties, after which the League will consider taking the games to grounds that have under-soil heating.

chairman Peter Higham has criticised Leeds and Wigan for forging links with rugby union clubs. The Cheshire club have barred their playnections and have made it clear they will not allow

Wilderspool stadium. Higham said: "We've just finished the 100-year war and now we are bending over backwards to help rugby union. We should be concentrating on promoting Super League and not throwing union. I can't see the gain for league in Wigan entering the Middlesex Sevens or playing Bath in challenge matches.

"Some league people won't be resting easy, the way we've gone cap in hand to union. There is a real danger of union gaining the upper hand at league grounds they chare

at league grounds they share, because of the money in their game." rington had rejected invita-tions from Welsh rugby union

clubs to play them at league. St Helens' 58-16 Challenge Cup fourth-round win at be given until Sunday to complete the ties, after which the League will consider taking the games to grounds that have under-soil heating.

Bill Madine, secretary of Whitehaven, said yesterday:

"We would be very reluctant for the semi-finals if the semi-final to give up home advantage." Merseyside club progress that Meanwhile, Warrington's far.

Snooker

Some shaker | Tough tie for from Morgan

Clive Everton

DARREN MORGAN edged past Peter Ebdon 6-5 with a respotted black yesterday to record his first victory in four visits to the Benson and Hedges Masters at the Wem-bley Conference Centre. His victory war-dance, accompanied by a handshake

that almost yanked his opponent's arm out of its socket. was even more extravagant than Ebdon's last year when he beat Stephen Hendry from two down with three to play. "Tve always bad a go at him [Ebdon] in the past for doing that, but I just couldn't balp it," said Morgan. "It was

very unprofessional and very immature," said Ebdon. Morgan, the only member of the world's top eight never to have won a major title, was taken to the sudden-death

extra black when the 11th frame ended in a tie.

Trailing 2-4, he had fought back to 5-4 before a break of 96 (12 reds. 12 blacks) brought

Ebdon level at 5-5. In the de-ciding frame Morgan missed a match-ball blue he would ordinarily pot and had to watch Ebdon clear the three remaining balls to tie.
Ebdon was first to attempt

the tie-break black but it was the Welsh left-hander who sank it to earn a place in the

sentation of their case to his fellow directors. "I couldn't take another year," he said, "of satisfying a set of criteria that are seemingly mestigiable."

The presentation of their case to his fellow directors. "I couldn't take another year," he said, "of satisfying a set of criteria that are seemingly mestigiable."

Loughtonians

Pat Rowley

HE strength of the teams left in the HA Cup was bound to produce a tight draw, and two quarter-finals that would have made excellent finals — Guildford v Reading and Old Loughtonians v Southgate — have come out of the hat.

Loughtonians, who defend their indoor title at Crystal Palace on Friday, have their fourth successive home draw in the outdoor competition, but Southgate are the most successful cup side. Currently leaders of the National League, they ended Loughtonians' unbeaten record in November with a 2-1 win.

Unlike Loughtonians, East Grinstead's run of home ties has been broken. They are away to Havant, the 1990 winners.

The other quarter-final sees the league champions Teddington at home to Canterbury, who are in the last eight for the first time. Of the survivors, these are the only sides never to have won a national competition.

The teams in all four quarter-finals have already met in the league this winter, all at the reverse venues. Guildford drew 2-2 at Reading, East Grinstead beat Havant 4-1 and Canterbury gained their first win over Teddington, 2-0. DRAWn Guitdford v Reading; Havant v East Grinstead; Old Loughtonlams v Southgate. Teddington v Camberbury. (To be played March 16).

Sports Guardian

WORLD CUP CLOSE TO CHAOS AS ORGANISERS REFUSE TO BYPASS COLOMBO

David Hopps on fresh pressure on Sri Lanka to allow matches to be moved from the capital and the shadow of the bomber

Now West Indies want out

World Cup organisers to reschedule their group match outside Sri Lanka in the wake of last week's terrorist bomb blast in Colombo.

Although West Indies did not quite follow Australia's lead by expressly refusing to play in Sri Lanka, the tone of their statement implied that refusal was inevitable if a switch was not granted.
Pilcom, the joint hosts' or-ganising committee, had

steadfastly dismissed Austra-lia's request, its secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya insisting: "Pilcon has decided that the matches in Sri Lanka will be

Australia's captain Mark Taylor, who spoke in Sydney yesterday of "a genuine con-cern of life-threatening in-jury". played down the risk of disqualification. Indeed that is highly improbable, Pilcom's response suggesting only mounting confusion.
"There is nothing in the playing conditions about this,"
Dalmiya said. "It is totally unprecedented."

The organisers will have awoken today to the further jolt of the West Indian announcement, but with less than a week before Sunday's opening ceremony in Calcutta it would require formidable diplomatic efforts to persuade

them to change their stance. Whatever the merits of the argument, the willingness of cricket's authorities to invest decisions of such magnitude in a 12-strong organising committee, comprising representatives from Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka, rather than in-vest the ICC itself with overall powers has again been ex-posed as folly.

Peter Short, president of the West Indies Board of Control, released a statement saying: "We are greatly apprecia tive of the security measures being taken by the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri the country's president and security forces, to try to ensure the safety of the West Indies team.

"However . . . the board has reluctantly come to the conclusion that for the players' safety and peace of mind, which is paramount, it has requested Pilcom to resched-Indies match on February 25 outside Sri Lanka.



Bowler takes guard . . . the England seamer Darren Gough skips rope at practice in Lahore yesterday as Pakistan security forces look on

this decision will cause and after this West Indian plea. consequent disappointment to the Sri Lankan people. However, this decision has been taken in the best interests of West Indies and world cricket.

Though Leicestershire called off their pre-season tour to Sri Lanka yesterday after Foreign Office advice, Zimbabwe and Kenya have both indicated a qualified

Kenya's match is scheduled for the hill-country town of Kandy, and Jimmy Rayana, secretary of Kenya's national association, stated: "We shall play in Sri Lanka provided there is reasonable security. Kenya are playing outside Colombo where there has been

only one outstanding group match, against India in Delhi, before their automatic qualification for the quarter-finals would be an untenable position which even Pilcom could

not easily ignore. But the organisers could not agree to jettison Sri Lanka's matches without consid-

"The board is aware of the | willingness to play there, al- | group matches by virtue of | from the World Cup and an | work Doordarshan and

Test nations. Pakistan's representatives are only too well aware that of Karachi and Peshawar — each hosting England matches - will take place amid the same beavy security being of-fered by the Sri Lankans.

Meanwhile, a solution looked in sight yesterday to the long-running dispute beno immediate threat yet."

Any prospect of Sri Lanka most of which would be Sri the long-running dispute bewinning four of their five Lanka's likely withdrawal tween India's state-run net-

pany which bought the World

Cup television rights.
According to reports from Doordarshan has accepted a WorldTel offer under which World Cup matches played in India can be broadcast to local audiences, even though Doordarshan has not paid further funds into court as WorldTel had been WorldTel

Guardian top of the naps table

CHRIS HAWKINS napped Tempering (7-1) at Southwell yesterday, sending the Guardian to the top of the Sporting Life naps table with a profit of £25.70. Racing, page 13

Asprilla? No certain cure for headache



Richard Williams

whether the supporters of Newcastle United had a close shave over the non-transfer of Faustino Asprilla tales of coke barons and porn queens - seem to have been suggesting. What I do know is that I feel sorry for them, which is not the most usual reaction to a team nine points lear in the Premiership.

Their fans have a coveted manager on a 10-year contract an enthusiastic and constructive chairman, a majestically rebuilt stadium and a starstudged squad of players pro-ducing the sort of football that reminds cynics of why they first fell in love with the game Set all that against the apparent failure to secure the signature of a forward who couldn't manage a goal in a crucial World Cup match against the

United States 18 months ago, and you might ask exactly what there is to feel sorry for. But the Asprilla affair will have reinforced a lesson New castle's supporters may have been in danger of forgatting: that life is not composed solely of a knifelike Beardsley pass, a mazy Ginola dribble and a thunderous roar as Ferdinand rises at the far post.

The whole business of the knee X-ray and the disagreement over the player's value may be a game of bluff and counter bluff at the end of which Kevin Reegan will be writing Asprilla's name on a Newcastle team-sheet. Some how I doubt it. If you watched the TV news footage of the Co-lombian's brief visit to St paid attention to the body language, you could have come to only one conclusion: that however much money he was being offered, Asprilla just didn't fancy the idea.

HE supporters turned out in the snow to pat him on the back and get his autograph. They believed that Keegan had brought them yet another present. Ever since his return, like the children all sports fans are, they have become ad-dicted to such gifts. But this

was one they didn't even get to unwrap. Swaddled in his winter coat, Asprilla had the air of a man

with a plane to catch. He accepted the pats, but did not smile. He signed the scraps of paper, but did not look the supplicants in the eye. Had I been a Geordie, I would not have in renewed my season ticket in the expectation of seeing him in the black and white. Every football fan has a sim-ilar tale buried somewhere in

his or her secret heart, the memory of the transfer that went wrong—the one that
didn't go through, or that left
you spending the next 10 years
wishing it hadn't.
A few feet from me in this

office are the Spurs supporter who remembers the arrival of the Fulham centre-back John Lacey as a signal of the club's diminished ambitton, the Luton follower to whom the acquisition of Steve Williams from Arsenal represented a symbol of deluded dreams, the Arsenal fan who uttered the name of Peter Marinello with a sad shake of the head, and the Evertonian to whom the arrival of Gary Lineker at the expense of Andy Gray signi-fied the moment at which the coherence of a title-winning team began to disintegrate

Those of us destined to follow the fortunes of Notting-ham Forest still think about how the arrival of Jim Baxter, the former Scotland genius bought by the chairman without the manager's knowledge helped destroy a lovely side

almost 30 years ago. Baxter scored with a stunning long-range volley in his first home game and then took his team mates on a tour of the city's bars lasting several months. ("Bad team," Baxter said of Forest recently. They were indeed, after he had got

COUPLE of years later Brian Clough an-nounced the signing to Derby County — the hated rivals — of Forest's sole remaining jewel, the winger Ian Storey-Moore, and paraded him in front of County's crowd during the half-time in-terval at the Baseball Ground. Realising what they had almost done, the Forest commit-tee withdrew from the deal and sold him to Manchester United instead.

When Clough walked into the City Ground a few years later and began the adventure that ended with Forest's name alongside those of Real Madrid and AC Milan on the European Cup, one or two of us had to swallow hard to forget his part in that humiliation. The short. unhappy saga of Faustino As-prilla is unlikely to leave such a scar, but it is a reminder to Newcastle that, as Ron Greenwood once informed Glenn Hoddle, disappointment is

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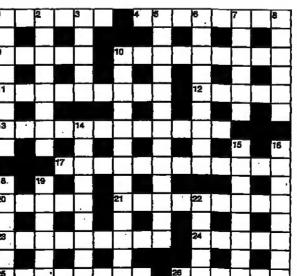


standard of the lunch to be found, at random, in a small town in a moderately priced restaurant, then France some time ago slipped into second place in Europe. Not only is **italy** ahead but Spain and **England** are on the way up. Sebastian Faulks

G2 page 8

Guardian Crossword No 20,568

Set by Gordius



1 Screw turning red to green (6)

- 4 Forgetting nothing while on errand (8) 9 Member taken round among
- 10 Mischance may be applied mathematically (9)
- 11 Firm ran mean busine Ireland (9) 12 Having caught ninety fish, do even better (5)
- 13 Leo's Bavarian version is equality bold (5,2,1,4)
- 17 Composed a sornet to brag about fast food (5,2.5) 20 Die for a drink (5) 21 Media prominence for punish-
- ment awarded by master . . . (9) 23 ...about whom we infer Cavalier treatment (9)
- 24 Saw to prior inspection (5) 25 The fringe are well advised
- 26 Unknown enemy formation may be involved in cleansing Down
- 1 They should be prepared to raise current using copper to British standard (4,4) 2 People who flourish in a manor - or in a caravan? (8)
- 3 Levant from Egypt to Israel opening new relationships (5) 5 Mad Charlie who upsets the forces of law and order ...
- 6 ... like a cop gets a bashing for others' (9) ... stupidity — putting one officer into unprofessional
- work (6) 8 Child turns up for a drink --it's refused (2.4)
- 10 Running buffet? (5,2,6) 14 Kohl gets a bit of a laugh in opening house endlessly (3,6)

15 Principal supporter this month with article in another month (8)

- ite instrument for the ear with too refined a range (8) 18 Capital lacks one in the south-east; they're thin on the ground (6)
- 19 Presumably said without

22 Fruit French paper is short of

Solution tomorrow

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